

OLYMPIANS

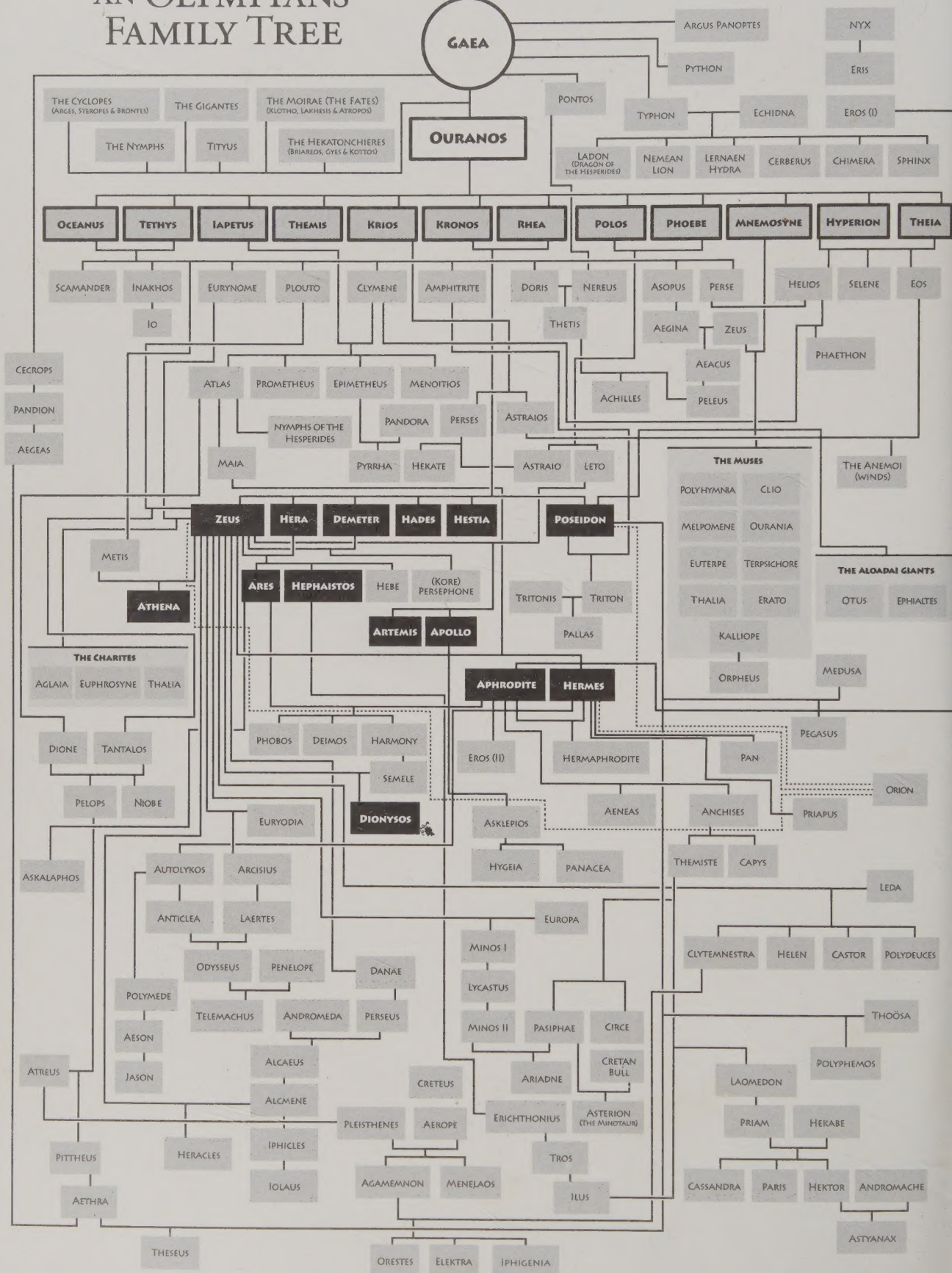
HEPHAISTOS

JUV
G.N.
SERIES
OLYMPIAN

GOD OF FIRE



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
GEORGE O'CONNOR

GAEA

GEORGE O'CONNOR

HEPHAISTOS

GOD OF FIRE



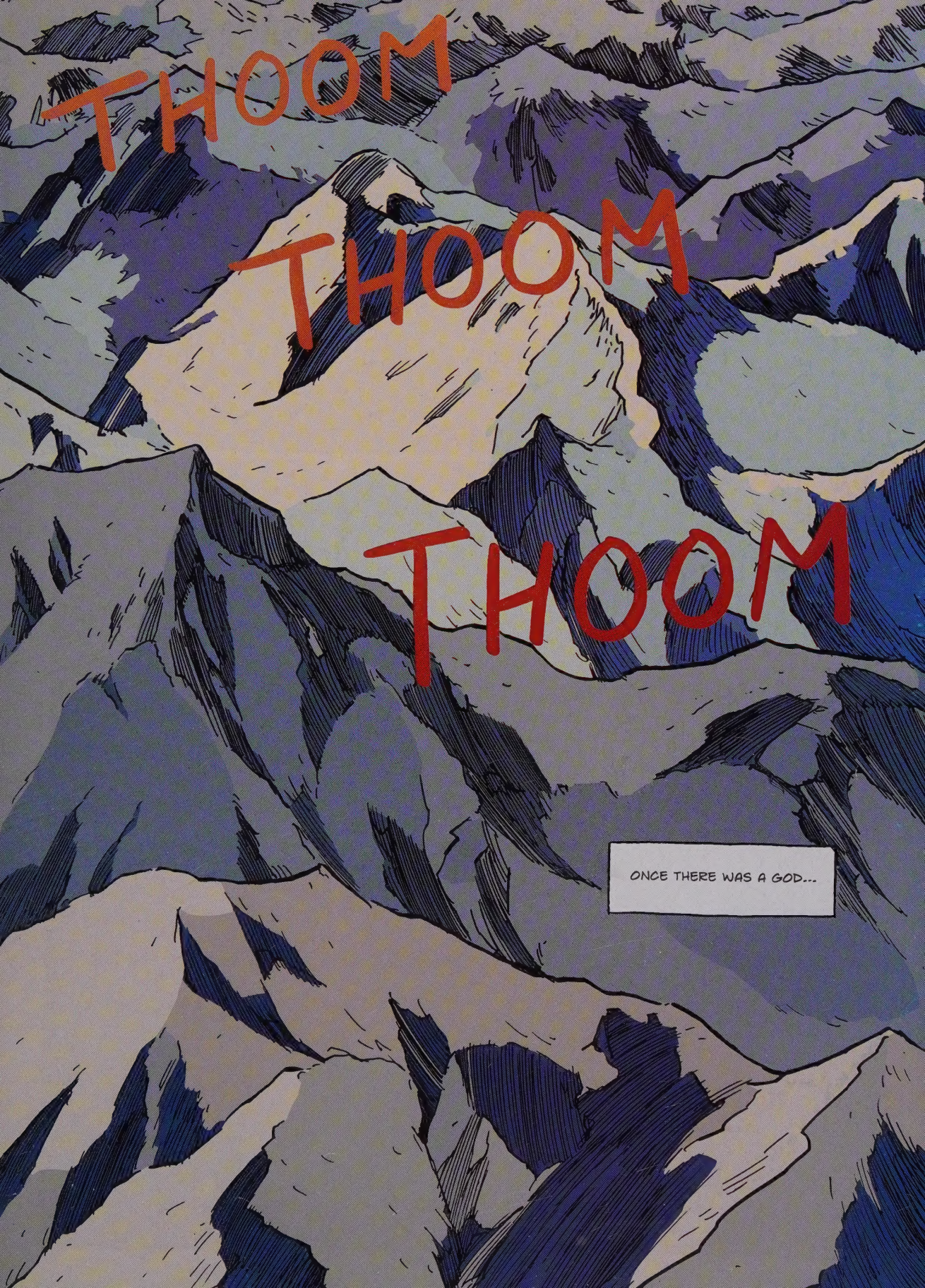
First Second

New York



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
Kahle/Austin Foundation

<https://archive.org/details/hephaistosgodoff0000ocon>



THOOM

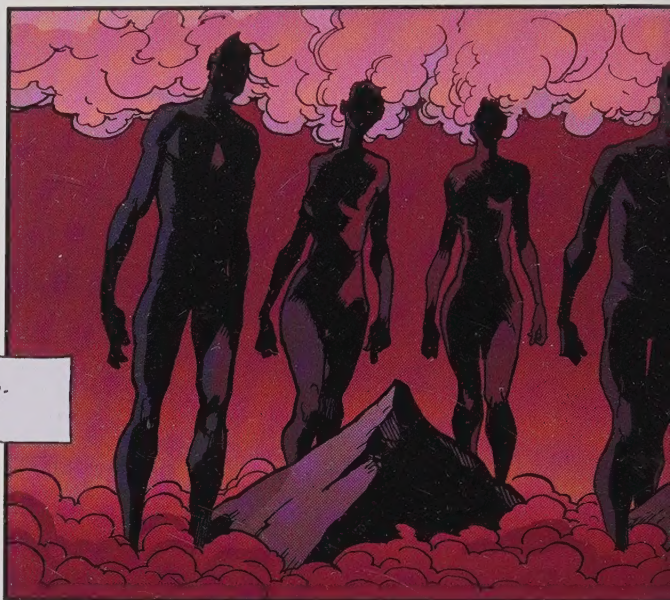
THOOM

THOOM

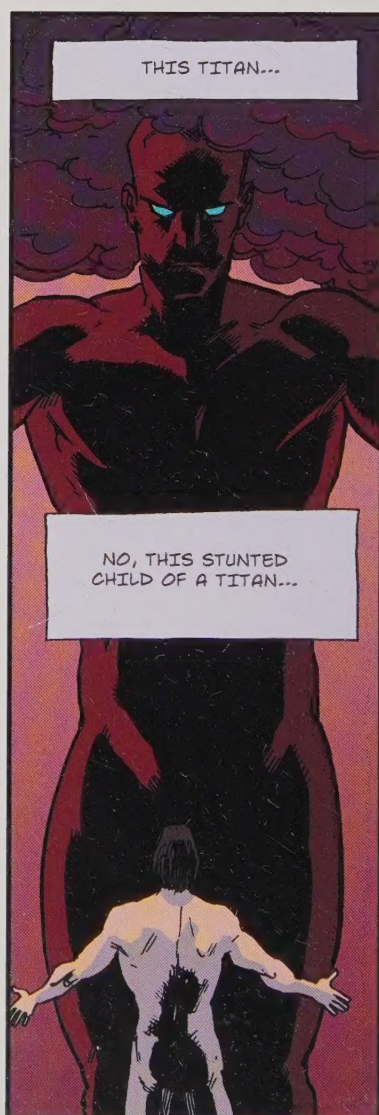
ONCE THERE WAS A GOD...



NOT A GOD.
A TITAN...

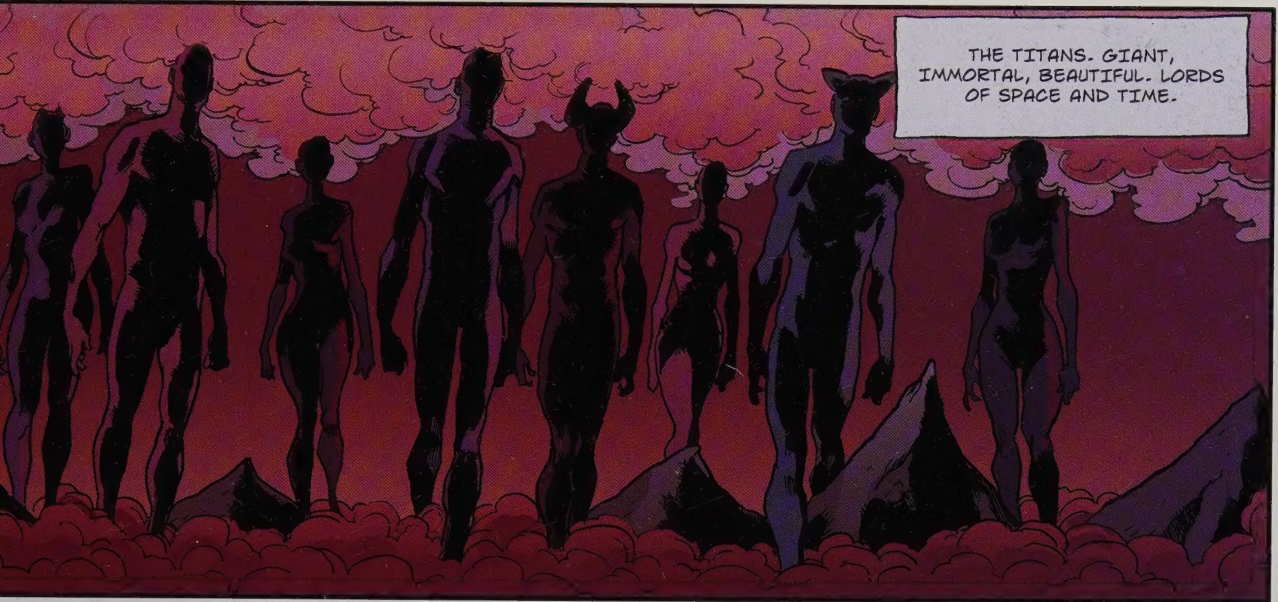


BEFORE THERE WERE GODS,
TITANS RULED THE COSMOS.

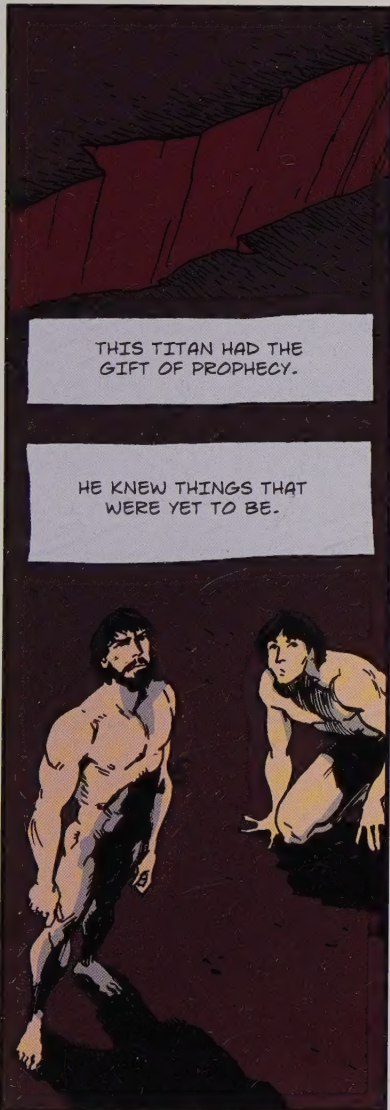


THIS TITAN...

NO, THIS STUNTED
CHILD OF A TITAN...

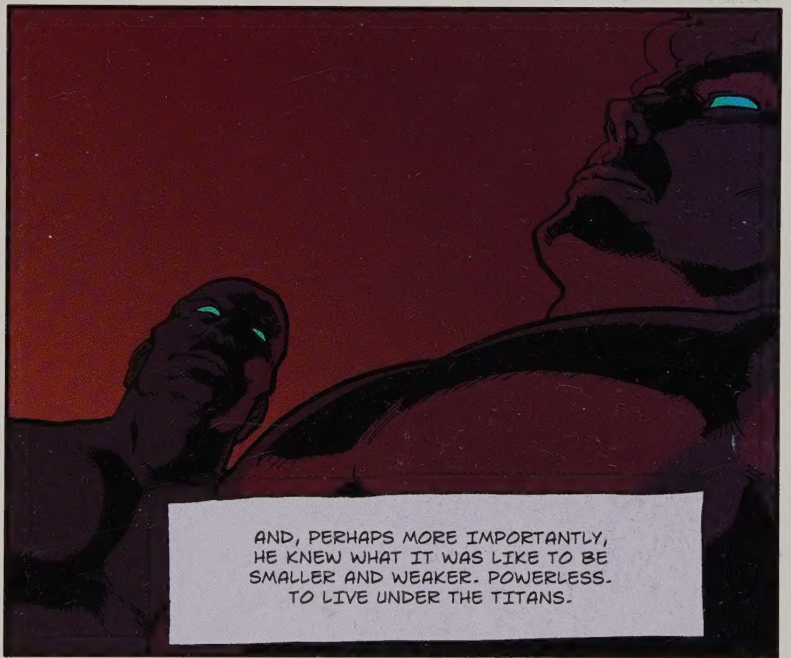


THE TITANS. GIANT,
IMMORTAL, BEAUTIFUL. LORDS
OF SPACE AND TIME.

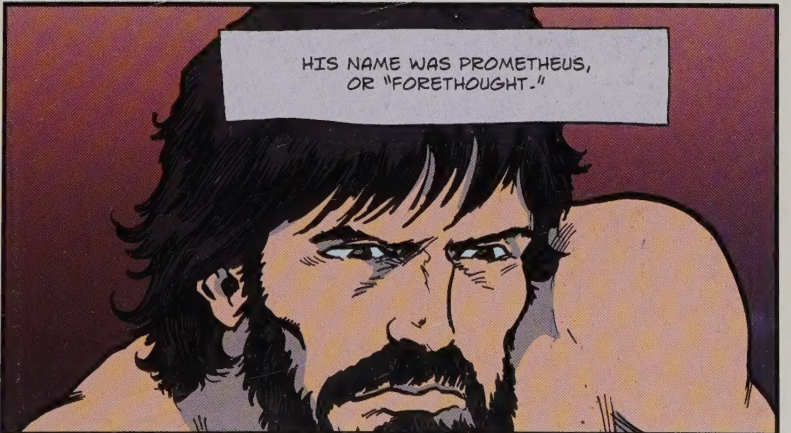


THIS TITAN HAD THE
GIFT OF PROPHECY.

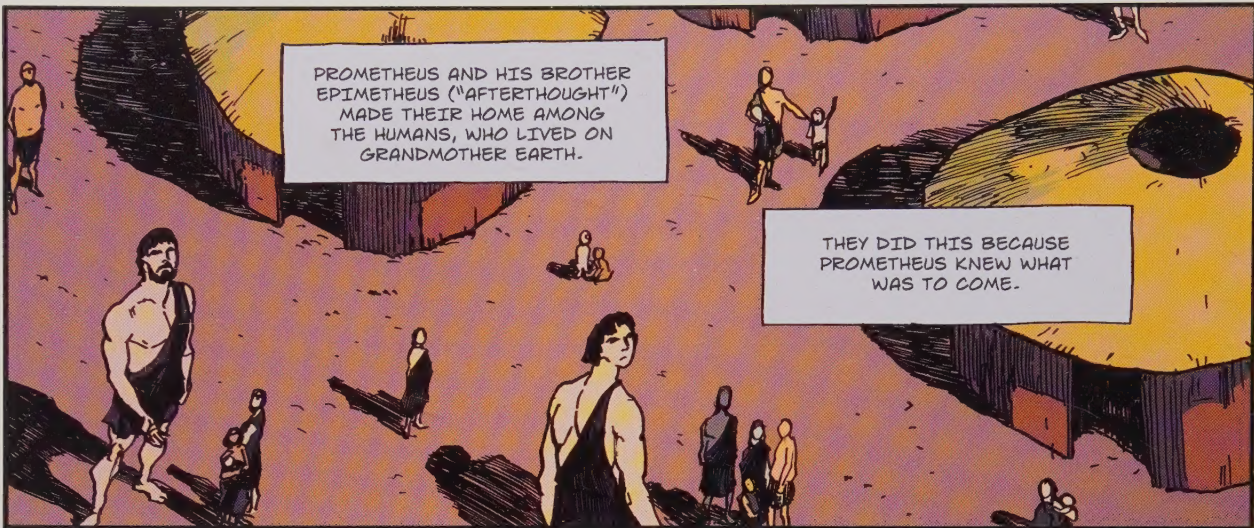
HE KNEW THINGS THAT
WERE YET TO BE.



AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY,
HE KNEW WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE
SMALLER AND WEAKER. POWERLESS.
TO LIVE UNDER THE TITANS.

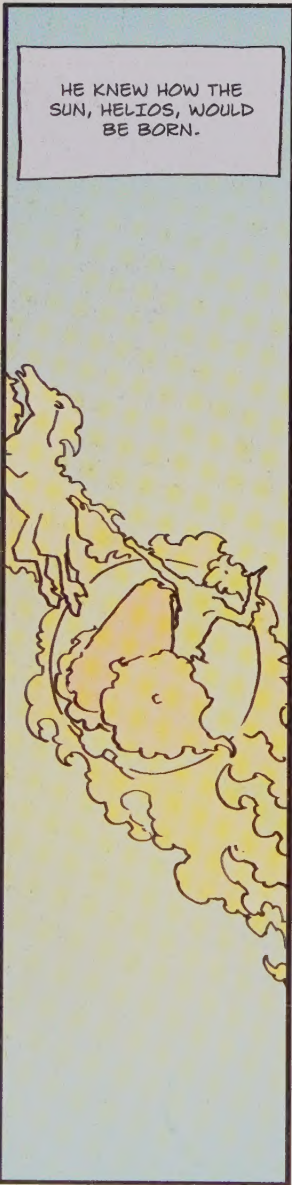


HIS NAME WAS PROMETHEUS,
OR "FORETHOUGHT."



PROMETHEUS AND HIS BROTHER
EPIMETHEUS ("AFTERTHOUGHT")
MADE THEIR HOME AMONG
THE HUMANS, WHO LIVED ON
GRANDMOTHER EARTH.

THEY DID THIS BECAUSE
PROMETHEUS KNEW WHAT
WAS TO COME.



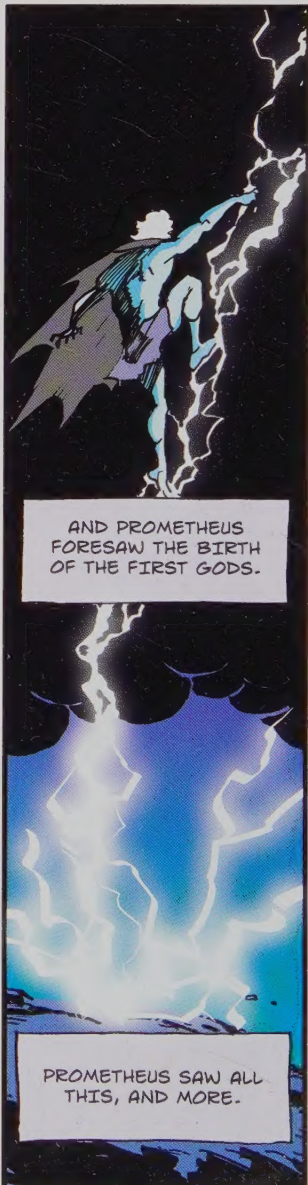
HE KNEW HOW THE
SUN, HELIOS, WOULD
BE BORN.



AND THE OCEANIDES,



AND SELENE,
THE MOON.



AND PROMETHEUS
FORESAW THE BIRTH
OF THE FIRST GODS.

PROMETHEUS SAW ALL
THIS, AND MORE.

PROMETHEUS KNEW OF THE
COMING TITANOMACHY, IN
WHICH THESE GODS WOULD
FIGHT THE TITANS.

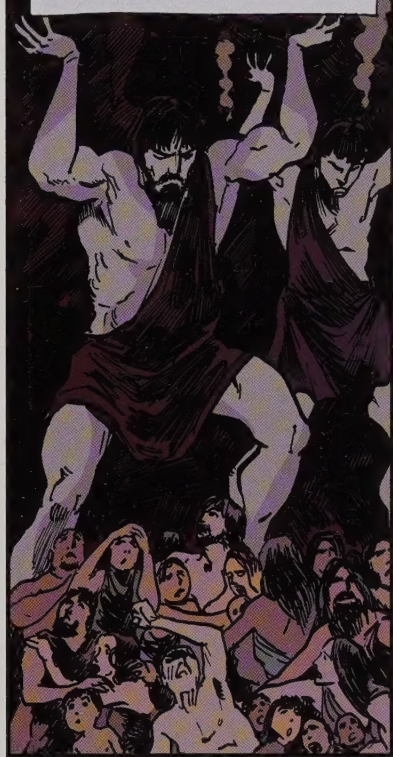


AND PROMETHEUS KNEW
WHO WOULD WIN.

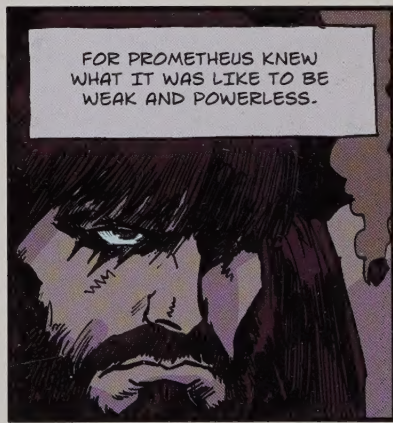
SO PROMETHEUS DID NOT
SIDE WITH THE TITANS
AGAINST THE GODS (WHO HE
KNEW WOULD LATER BECOME
KNOWN AS THE OLYMPIANS).



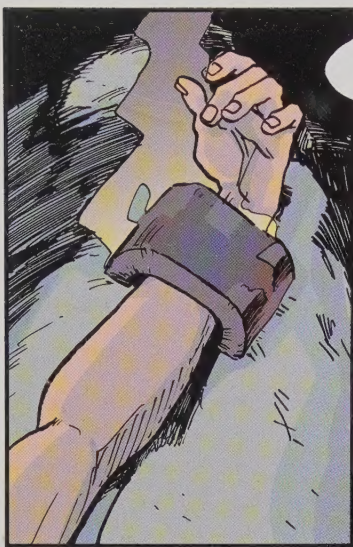
INSTEAD, HE AND
EPIMETHEUS RETREATED
UNDERGROUND, TO PROTECT
HUMANKIND FROM THIS
DISASTROUS CLASH OF
TITANS AND GODS.



FOR PROMETHEUS KNEW
WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE
WEAK AND POWERLESS.



THOOM!

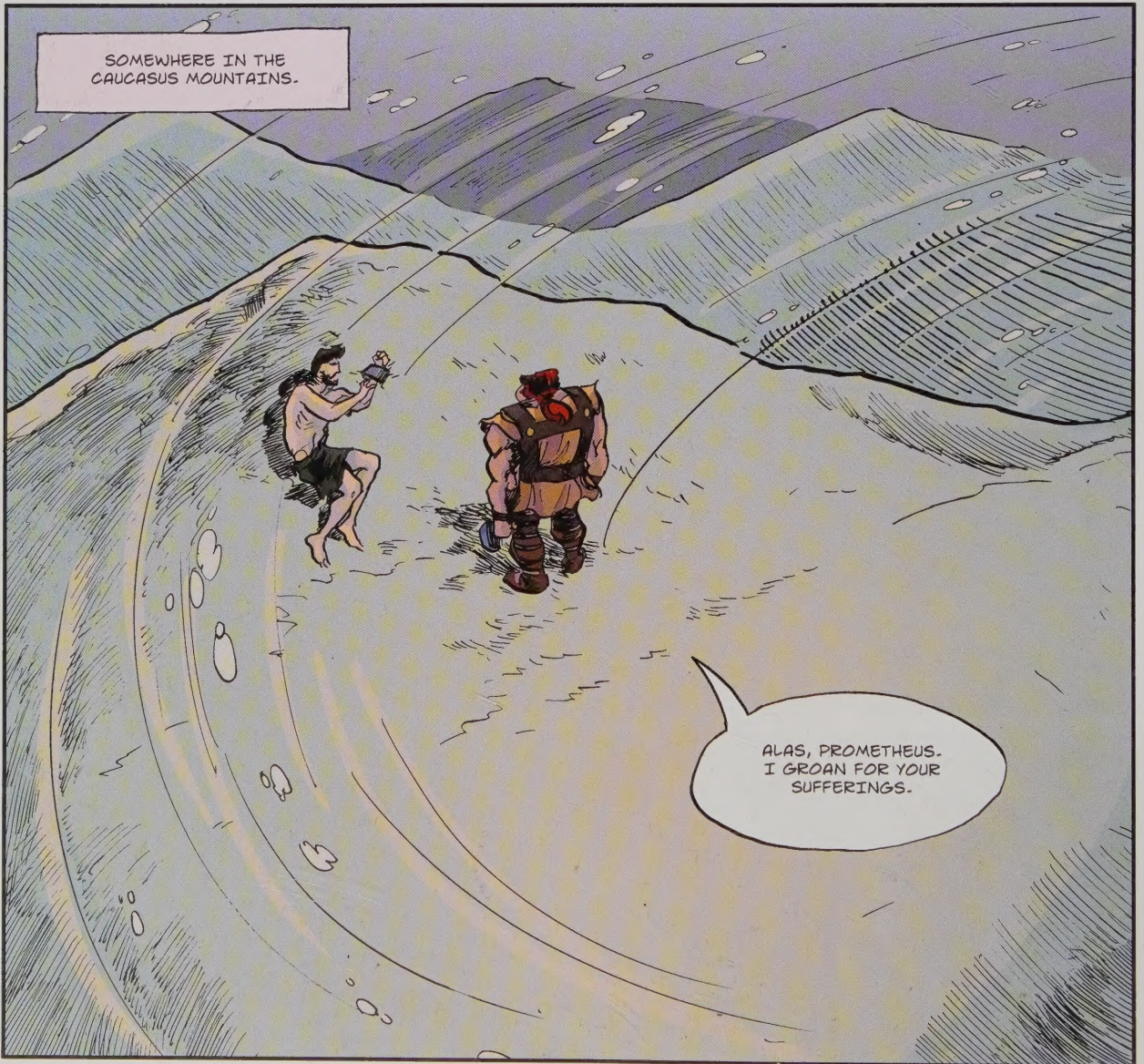


THERE.

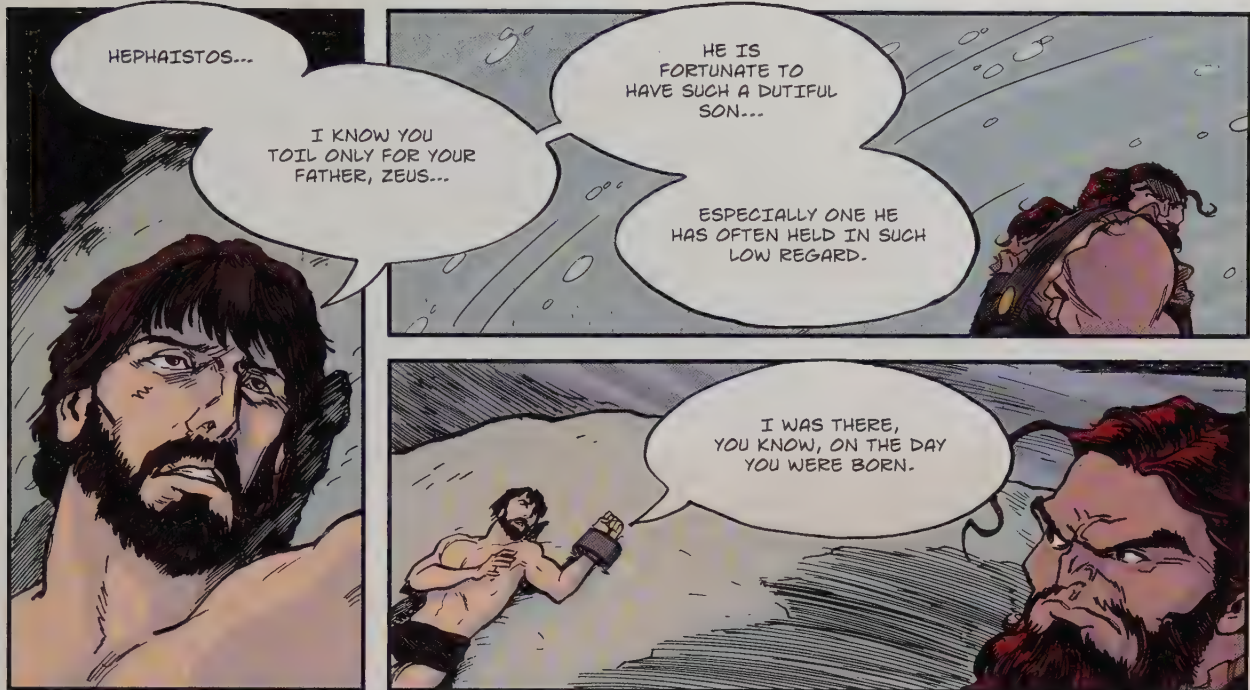
THIS ARM,
AT LEAST, IS FIXED
PERMANENTLY.

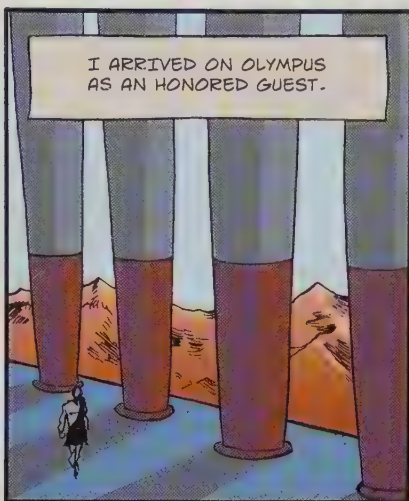


SOMEWHERE IN THE
CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS.

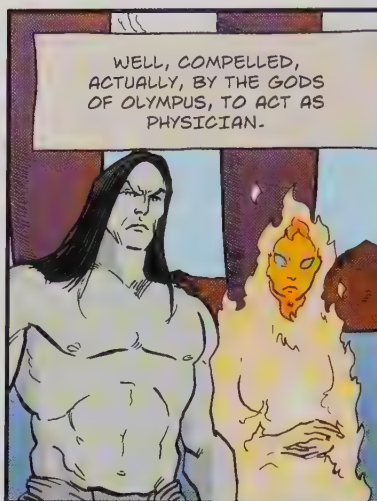


ALAS, PROMETHEUS.
I GROAN FOR YOUR
SUFFERINGS.

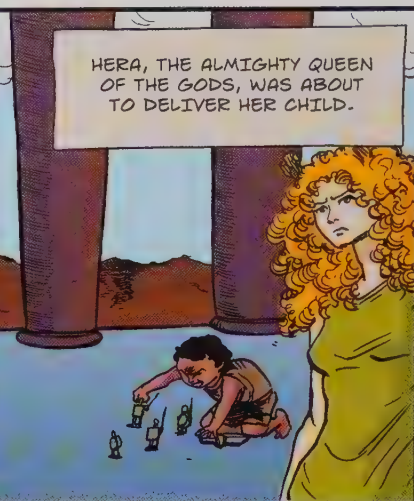




I ARRIVED ON OLYMPUS
AS AN HONORED GUEST.



WELL, COMPELLED,
ACTUALLY, BY THE GODS
OF OLYMPUS, TO ACT AS
PHYSICIAN.



HERA, THE ALMIGHTY QUEEN
OF THE GODS, WAS ABOUT
TO DELIVER HER CHILD.



AND SHE WAS NOT
HAPPY ABOUT IT.

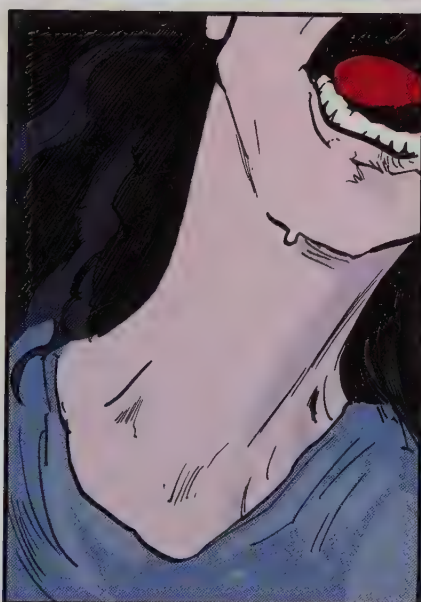
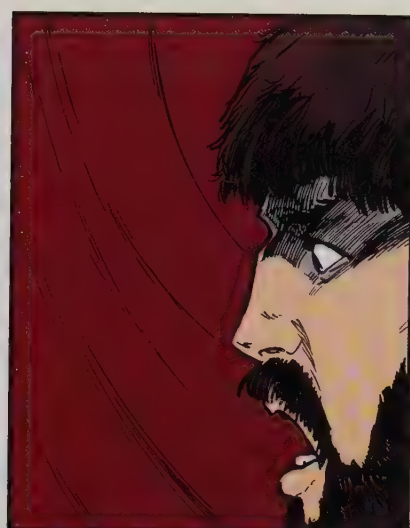


YOUR FATHER WAS...
ELSEWHERE, AS HE HAD
BEEN FOR MUCH OF THE
PREGNANCY.



IT HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT
PREGNANCY, AND I FORESAW THAT
THE DELIVERY WAS GOING TO BE
EVEN WORSE.







LADY HERA,
QUEEN OF THE GODS.
I PRESENT TO YOU...

...YOUR SON.



HE'S UGLY.



HE'S UGLY AND
LUMPY AND MISSHAPEN.
HE HAS A SICKLY AIR
ABOUT HIM.

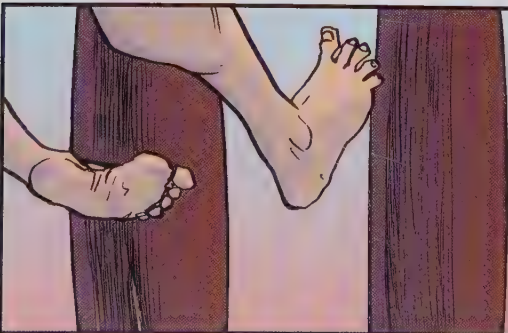
...LADY HERA?



I DO NOT THINK
I WANT THIS UGLY BABY.
NO, I DO NOT THINK—



LADY
HERA, I MUST
INSIST—



UNHAND ME.



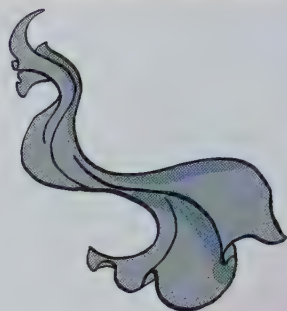
HERA WASN'T
IN HER RIGHT MIND,
OF THAT I'M SURE.
IT HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT
PREGNANCY FOR HER...



...I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU
NEXT...



...
...I KNOW ONLY
WHAT I WAS TOLD.

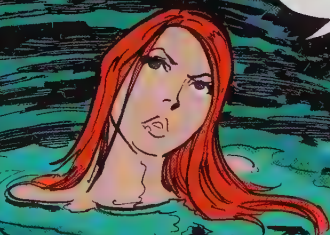


AS I FELL...

...WHILE OUT FOR A MIDNIGHT
SWIM, THETIS, THE NEREID,
AND EURYNOME, THE OCEANIDE,
SPIED ME.

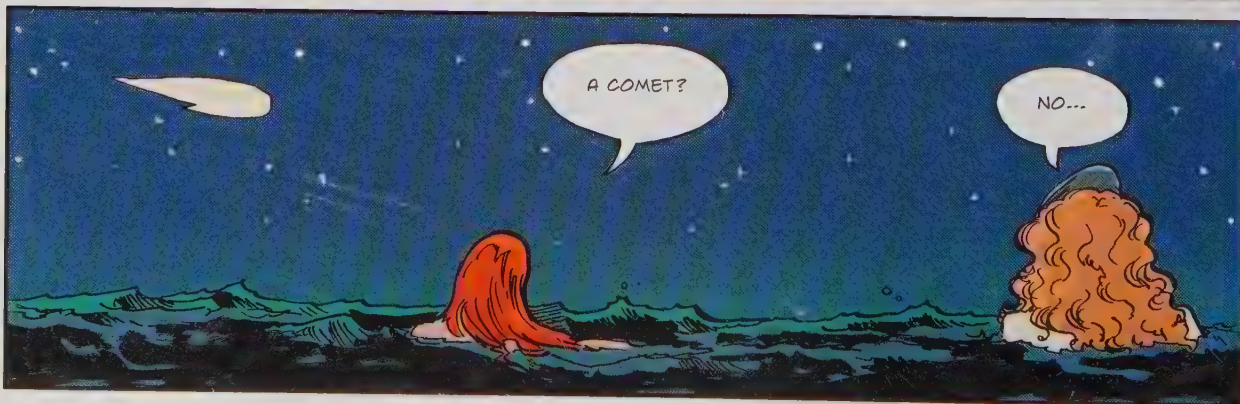


WHAT IS THAT?



A COMET?

NO...



THEY CAUGHT ME, THETIS
AND EURYNOME. PROTECTED
ME FROM THE FALL.



I WAS UGLY AND MISSHAPEN, YES, BUT
THETIS AND EURYNOME SWAM WITH ME
TO THE NEARBY ISLAND OF LEMNOS.

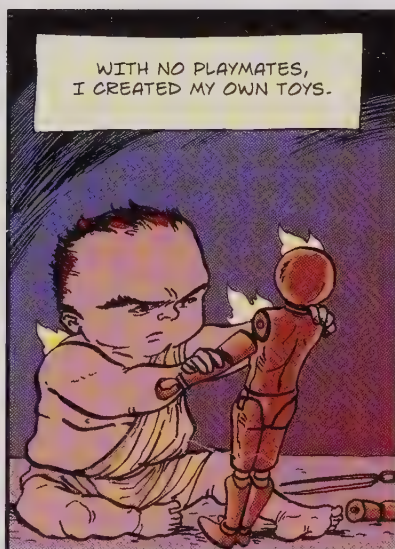




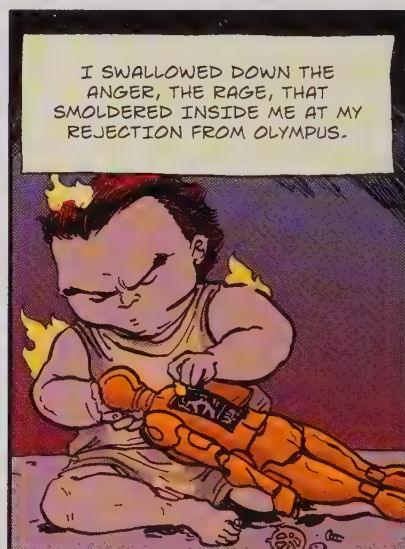
AND THERE WE
WERE A FAMILY.



ON LEMNOS, I FOUND I
HAD AN APTITUDE FOR
FABRICATION.



WITH NO PLAYMATES,
I CREATED MY OWN TOYS.



I SWALLOWED DOWN THE
ANGER, THE RAGE, THAT
SMOLDERED INSIDE ME AT MY
REJECTION FROM OLYMPUS.



FOR NINE YEARS I LIVED
WITH THETIS AND EURYNOME
ON THAT ISLAND.

MY SKILLS INCREASED
AND INCREASED.
THE THINGS I MADE...

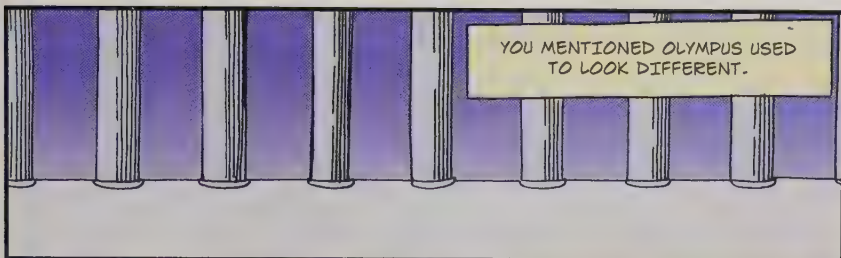
THEY WERE FILLED WITH
THE BEAUTY I LACKED.

I MADE GIFTS OF THESE THINGS TO THE GODS AND GODDESSES, WHO WERE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE SUCH EXQUISITE TREASURES.



I BOUGHT MY WAY BACK TO OLYMPUS.

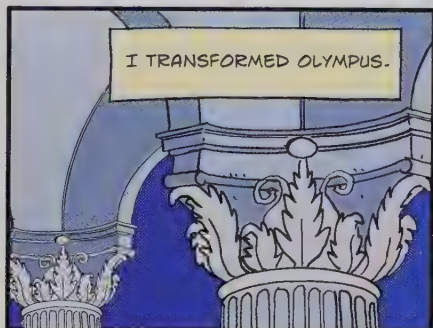
YOU MENTIONED OLYMPUS USED TO LOOK DIFFERENT.



THAT WAS ME.



I TRANSFORMED OLYMPUS.



AND THAT'S HOW I MADE MY PLACE AMONG THE GODS.



...THOUGH, I MUST CONFESS, I'VE ALWAYS FELT MORE AT HOME BENEATH THE GLEAMING PALACES OF OLYMPUS.

IN MY FORGE.





LET ME TELL YOU
ABOUT MY FORGE.

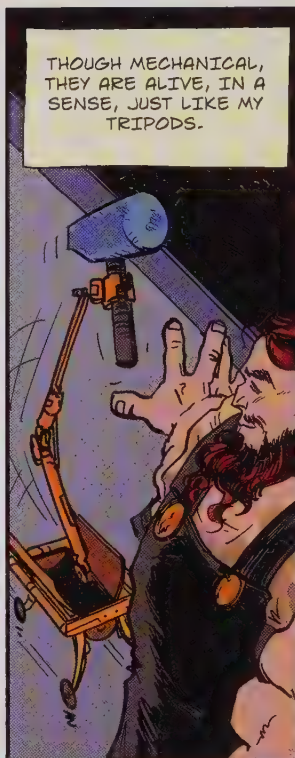
IN MY FORGE, THERE ARE
TWENTY BELLWS THAT
WORK BY THEMSELVES.



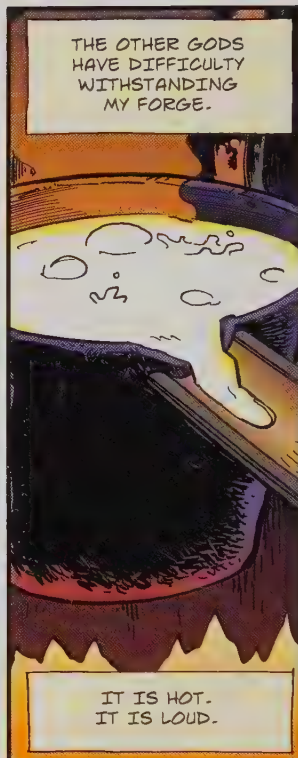
THE HEAT THEY
PRODUCE IS...
AWESOME.



I AM ATTENDED
BY ASSISTANTS I
CRAFTED MYSELF
OUT OF GOLD.

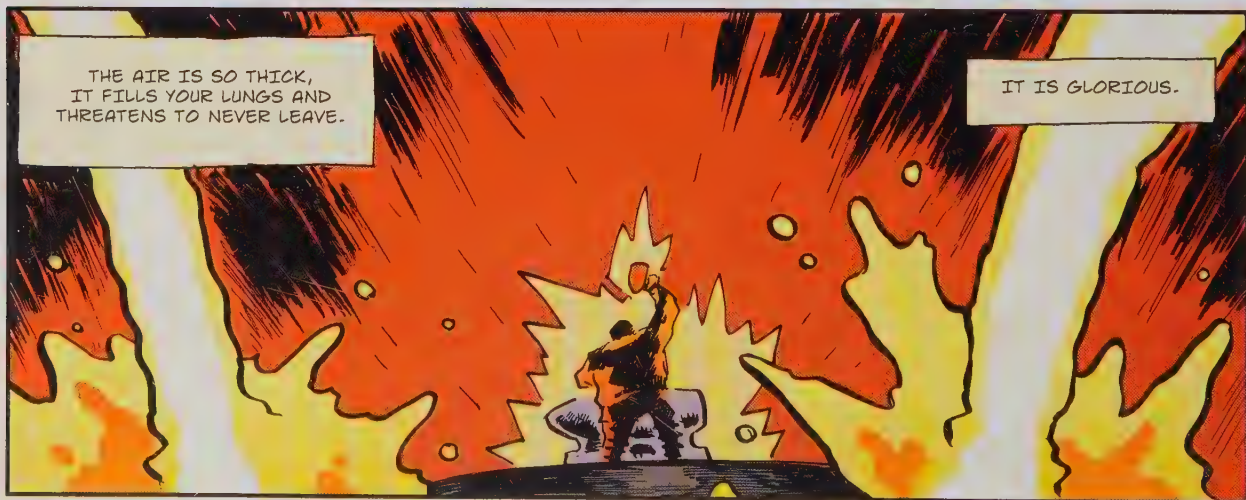


THOUGH MECHANICAL,
THEY ARE ALIVE, IN A
SENSE, JUST LIKE MY
TRIPODS.



THE OTHER GODS
HAVE DIFFICULTY
WITHSTANDING
MY FORGE.

IT IS HOT.
IT IS LOUD.



THE AIR IS SO THICK,
IT FILLS YOUR LUNGS AND
THREATENS TO NEVER LEAVE.

IT IS GLORIOUS.

AND SUCH THINGS I CREATE
HERE. HERE I DESIGNED THE
WEAPONS OF THE GODS.



HERE I WROUGHT TALOS, THE
MECHANICAL GUARDIAN OF CRETE.

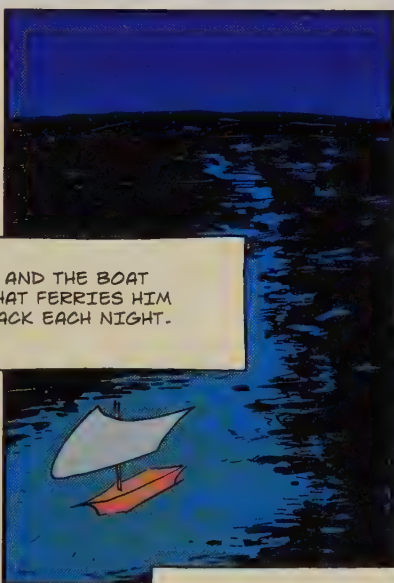


SOMETIMES HE WEARS THE
SHAPE OF A MAN, OTHER
TIMES A BULL. HE BLAZES
WITH THE HEAT OF HIS
BIRTHPLACE.

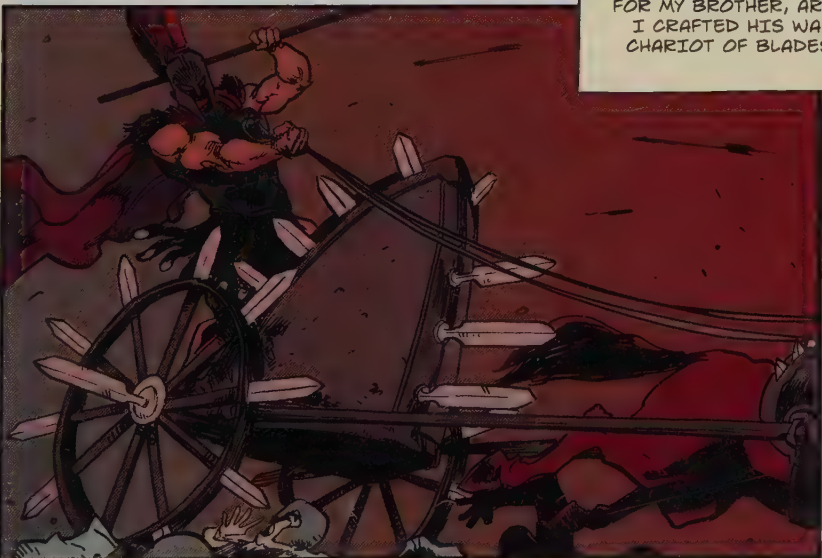
IN MY FORGE I MADE THE
CHARIOT THAT CARRIES
HELIOS ACROSS THE SKY
EACH DAY,



AND THE BOAT
THAT FERRIES HIM
BACK EACH NIGHT.

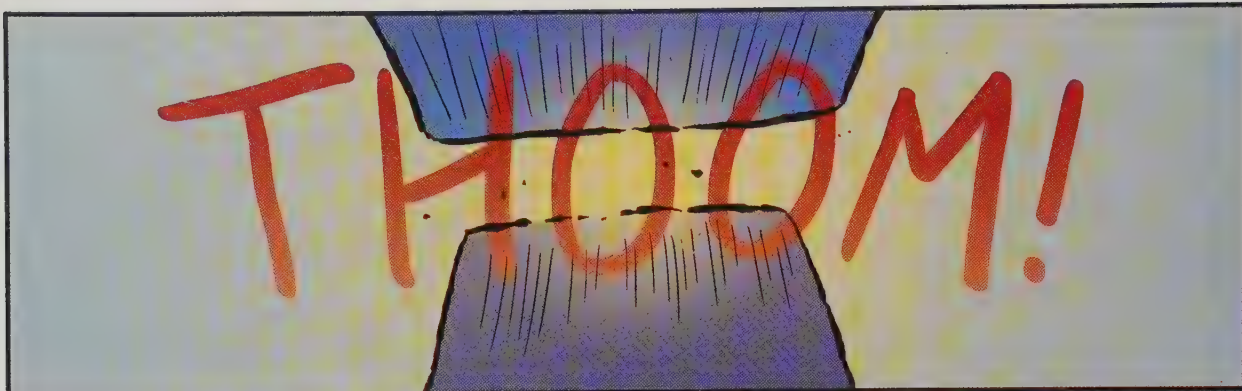


FOR MY BROTHER, ARES,
I CRAFTED HIS WAR
CHARIOT OF BLADES.



AND FOR MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE,
APHRODITE, I FASHIONED
AN ENCHANTED GIRDLE
THAT MAKES HER EVEN MORE
IRRESISTIBLE.





UPON
REFLECTION,
PERHAPS NOT MY
BEST IDEA.



THERE, NOW THE
SECOND ARM'S DONE, AND
WITHOUT MUCH LABOR.



HEPHAISTOS, DO YOU
WONDER WHY ZEUS HAS YOU
BINDING ME HERE?



I KNOW WHY.

I WAS THERE
THAT NIGHT.



THAT YOU WERE,
HEPHAISTOS.

BUT WE EACH
KNOW ONLY WHAT
WE CAN SEE.



AND I CAN
SEE THAT WHICH HAS
YET TO OCCUR.

ONCE THERE
WAS A CITY.

MORE OF A
TOWN, REALLY.

WE'LL CALL
IT MEKONE.

ON THIS NIGHT, THE PEOPLE
OF MEKONE GATHERED SO
THAT THEY MIGHT OFFER
A SACRIFICE.

THE PEOPLE OF MEKONE
WERE NOT WEALTHY, AND ANY
SACRIFICE WOULD COST THEM
DEARLY.

IT WAS WORTH IT,
HOWEVER, TO KEEP THE
OLYMPIANS HAPPY.



MORTALS!

WHAT
TRIBUTE HAVE YOU
FOR US?

WHO IS
THIS?

IT IS I,
PROMETHEUS, SON OF
IAPETUS, WHO WAS BROTHER
TO YOUR FATHER, KRONOS
THE TITAN.

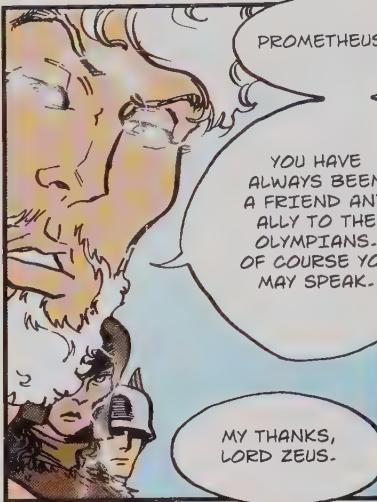
MY BROTHER
EPIMETHEUS AND I
HAVE LONG MADE OUR
HOME AMONGST THESE
MORTALS, AND WE KNOW
WELL THE HARDSHIPS
THEY FACE.

I WOULD ASK TO
BE AN ARBITER ON
THEIR BEHALF.



AND MY GREETINGS TO YOU, TOO, LADY HERA.

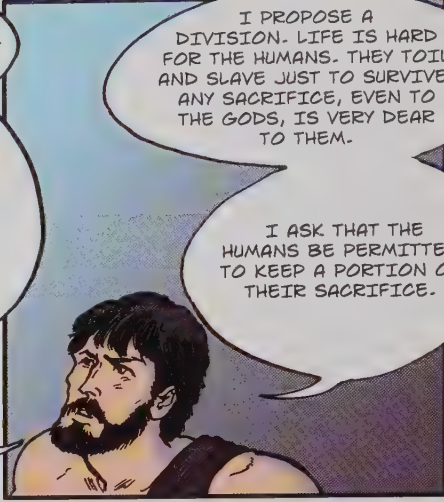
HMM.



PROMETHEUS...

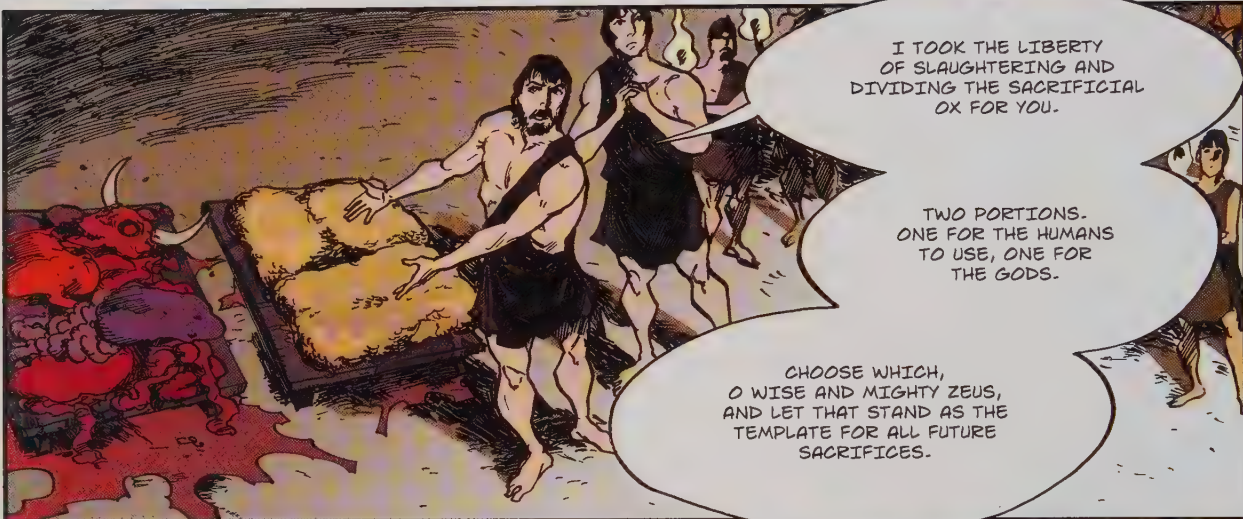
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FRIEND AND ALLY TO THE OLYMPIANS. OF COURSE YOU MAY SPEAK.

MY THANKS, LORD ZEUS.



I PROPOSE A DIVISION. LIFE IS HARD FOR THE HUMANS. THEY TOIL AND SLAVE JUST TO SURVIVE. ANY SACRIFICE, EVEN TO THE GODS, IS VERY DEAR TO THEM.

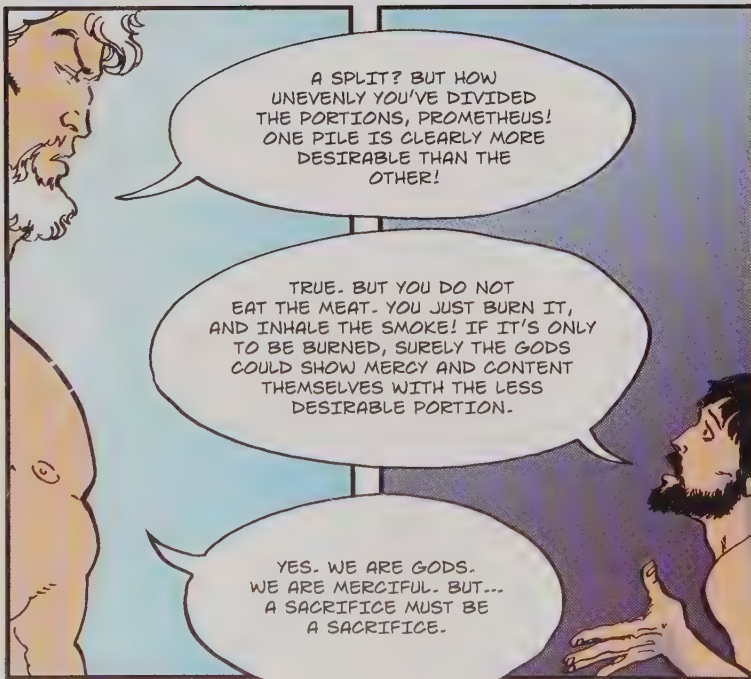
I ASK THAT THE HUMANS BE PERMITTED TO KEEP A PORTION OF THEIR SACRIFICE.



I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SLAUGHTERING AND DIVIDING THE SACRIFICIAL OX FOR YOU.

TWO PORTIONS. ONE FOR THE HUMANS TO USE, ONE FOR THE GODS.

CHOOSE WHICH, O WISE AND MIGHTY ZEUS, AND LET THAT STAND AS THE TEMPLATE FOR ALL FUTURE SACRIFICES.



A SPLIT? BUT HOW UNEVENLY YOU'VE DIVIDED THE PORTIONS, PROMETHEUS! ONE PILE IS CLEARLY MORE DESIRABLE THAN THE OTHER!

TRUE. BUT YOU DO NOT EAT THE MEAT. YOU JUST BURN IT, AND INHALE THE SMOKE! IF IT'S ONLY TO BE BURNED, SURELY THE GODS COULD SHOW MERCY AND CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH THE LESS DESIRABLE PORTION.

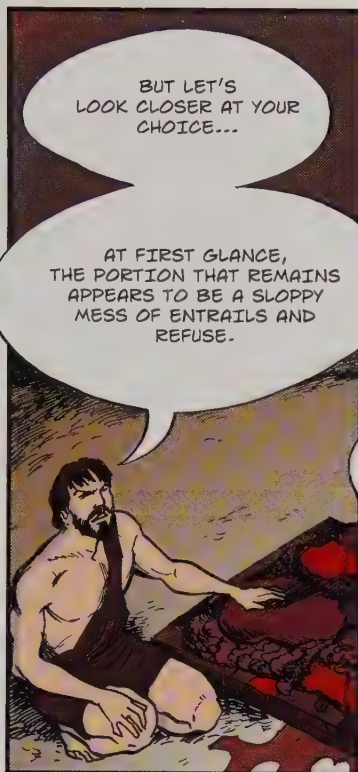
YES. WE ARE GODS. WE ARE MERCIFUL. BUT... A SACRIFICE MUST BE A SACRIFICE.



MY CHOICE IS MADE. LET THE HUMANS BE CONTENT WITH THE PORTION THAT REMAINS.

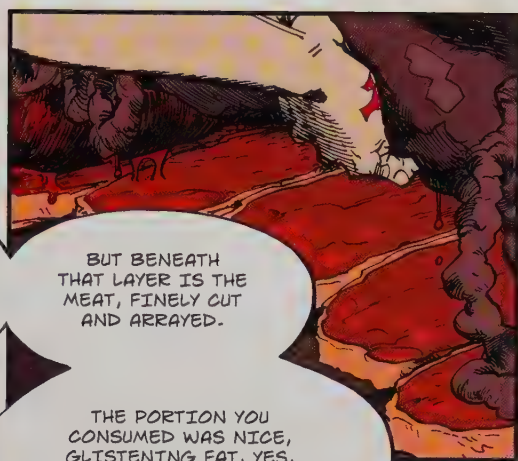


YES, YOU
DID CHOOSE.
THE PRECEDENT
IS SET.



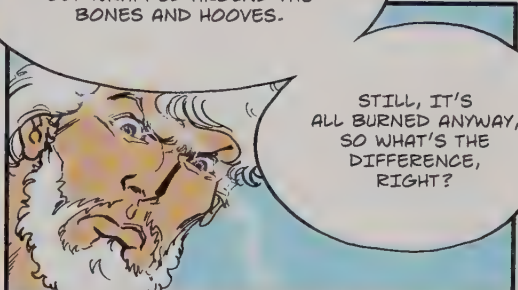
BUT LET'S
LOOK CLOSER AT YOUR
CHOICE...

AT FIRST GLANCE,
THE PORTION THAT REMAINS
APPEARS TO BE A SLOPPY
MESS OF ENTRAILS AND
REFUSE.

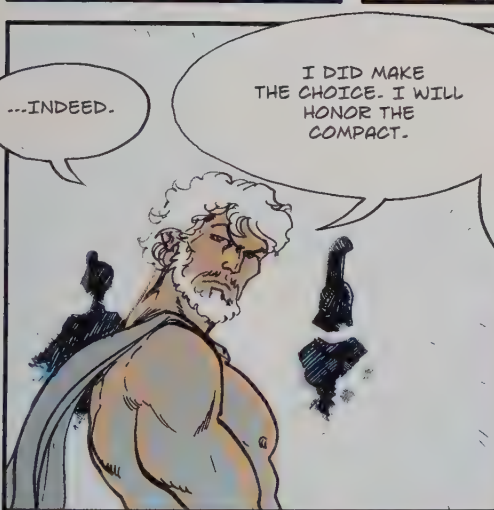


BUT BENEATH
THAT LAYER IS THE
MEAT, FINELY CUT
AND ARRANGED.

THE PORTION YOU
CONSUMED WAS NICE,
GLISTENING FAT, YES,
BUT WRAPPED AROUND THE
BONES AND HOOVES.

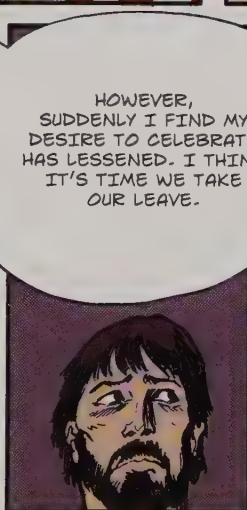


STILL, IT'S
ALL BURNED ANYWAY,
SO WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE,
RIGHT?



...INDEED.

I DID MAKE
THE CHOICE. I WILL
HONOR THE
COMPACT.



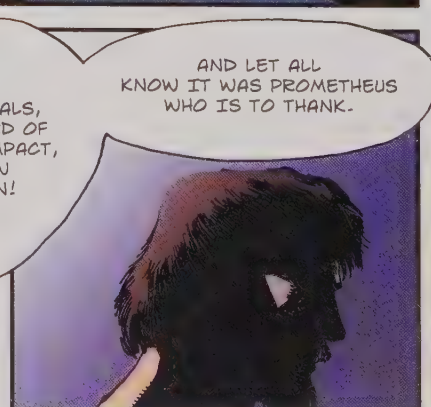
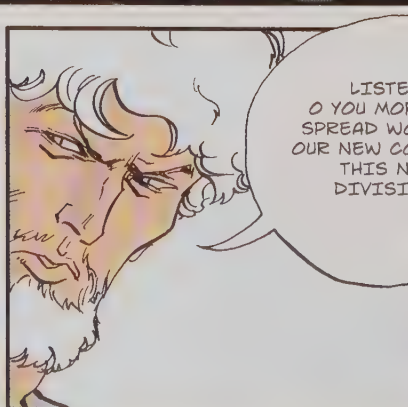
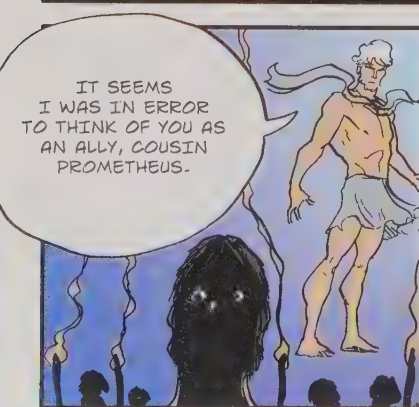
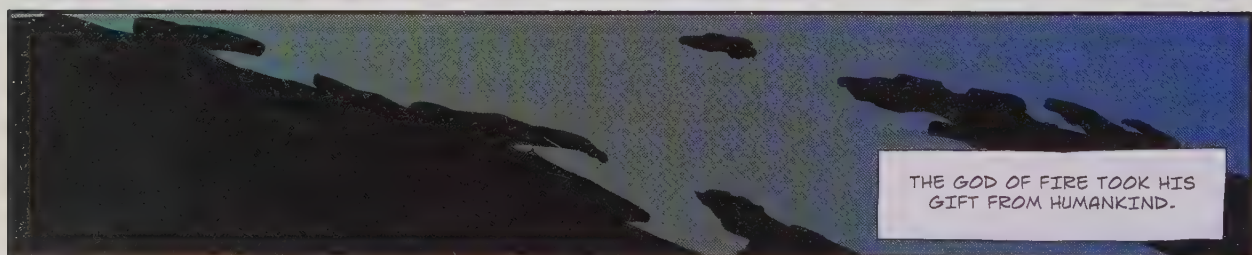
HOWEVER,
SUDDENLY I FIND MY
DESIRE TO CELEBRATE
HAS LESSENED. I THINK
IT'S TIME WE TAKE
OUR LEAVE.



BEFORE
WE GO...

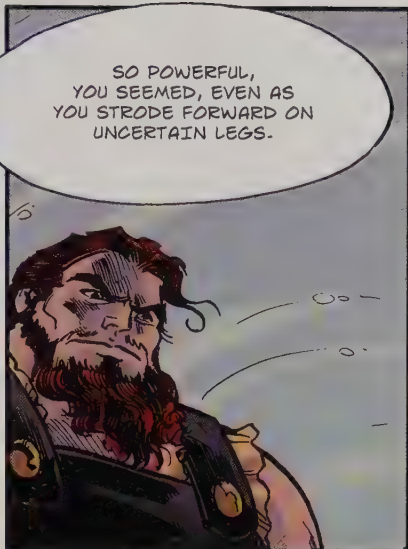
HEPHAISTOS?







THAT WAS THE FIRST I'D SEEN OF YOU SINCE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.



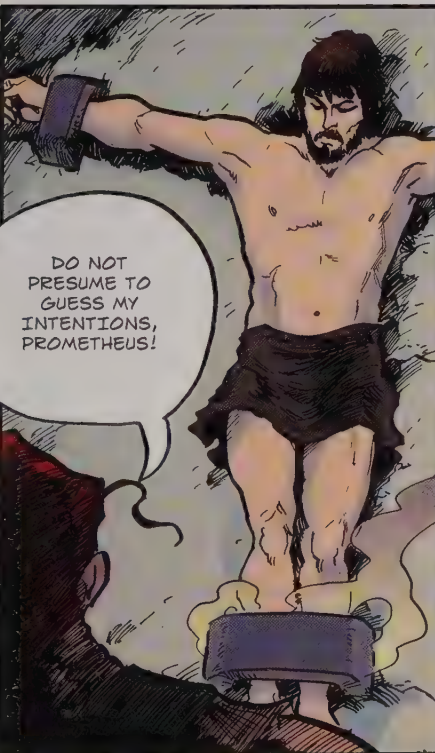
SO POWERFUL, YOU SEEMED, EVEN AS YOU STRODE FORWARD ON UNCERTAIN LEGS.



I SENSE THERE IS MUCH THAT IS UNCERTAIN ABOUT YOU, HEPHAISTOS.



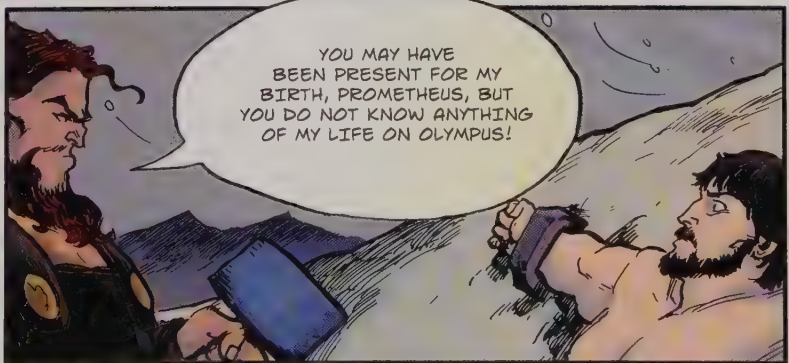
THOOM!



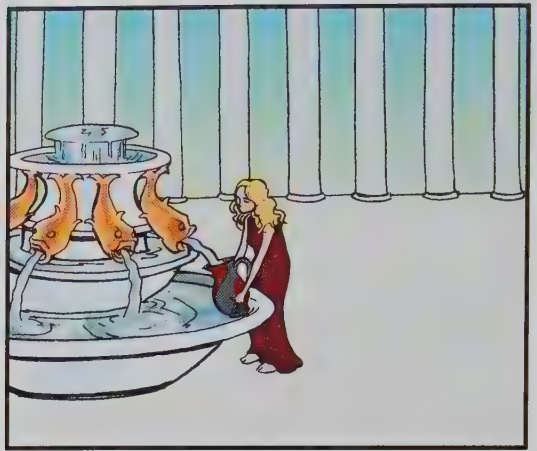
DO NOT PRESUME TO GUESS MY INTENTIONS, PROMETHEUS!

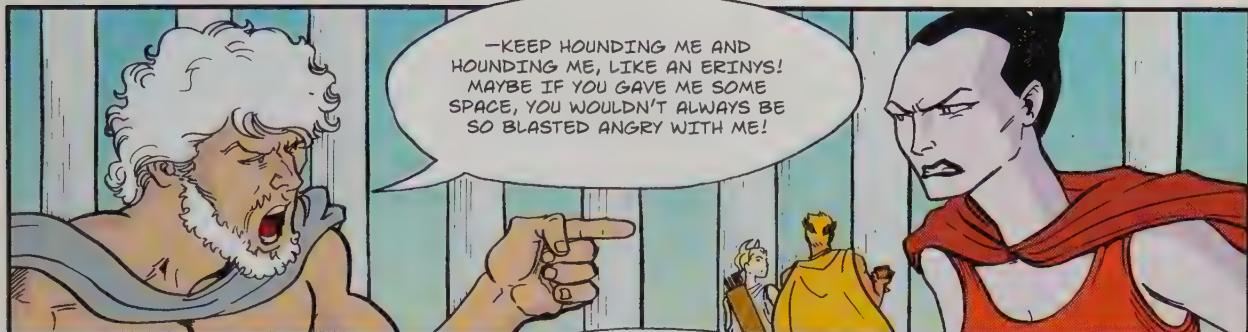


YOU SEEK TO UNDERMINE MY AMBITIONS, WHILE FLATTERING THE STRENGTH AND FORCE I BRING TO REALIZE THEM.



YOU MAY HAVE BEEN PRESENT FOR MY BIRTH, PROMETHEUS, BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING OF MY LIFE ON OLYMPUS!





—KEEP HOUNDING ME AND
HOUNDING ME, LIKE AN ERINYS!
MAYBE IF YOU GAVE ME SOME
SPACE, YOU WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE
SO BLASTED ANGRY WITH ME!



GIVE YOU SPACE?
I DO THAT, AND THE NEXT THING I
KNOW, YOU'LL BE BRINGING ANOTHER
DEMIGOD AROUND HERE! DO YOU
THINK I LIK—



MOTHER,
FATHER.

PUT ASIDE
YOUR QUARRELS FOR
NOW. THE HALLS OF
OLYMPUS ARE NO
PLACE FOR
ANGER.



QUENCH
YOUR TEMPER
AND YOUR THIRST.
EXPLORE PATIENCE,
AND GIVE THE HEAT
RISING WITHIN
YOU A CHANCE TO
COOL DOWN.

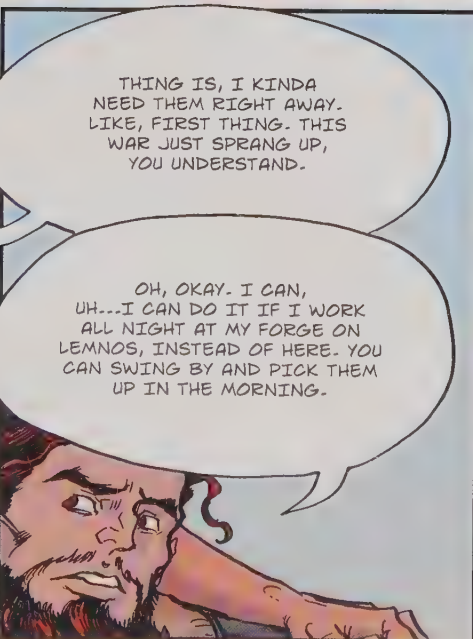
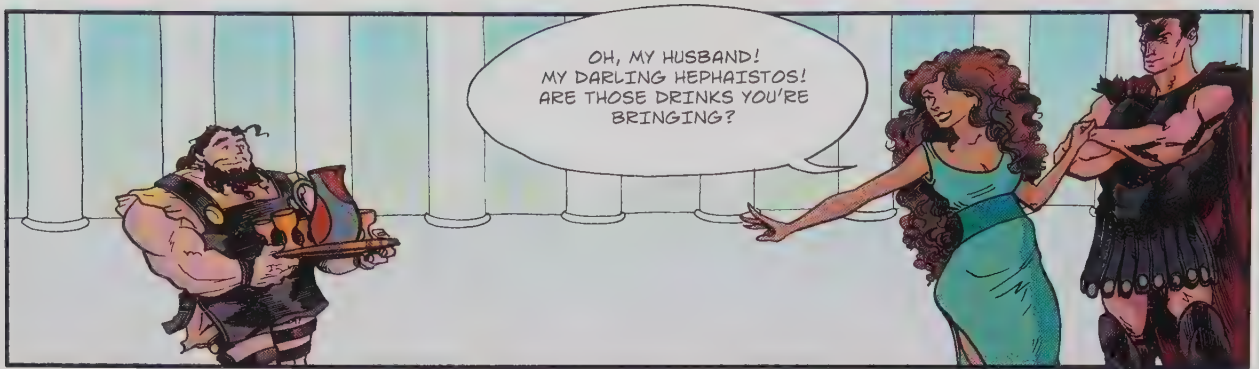


HMPF.

NOW,
WHAT WAS I
SAYING?

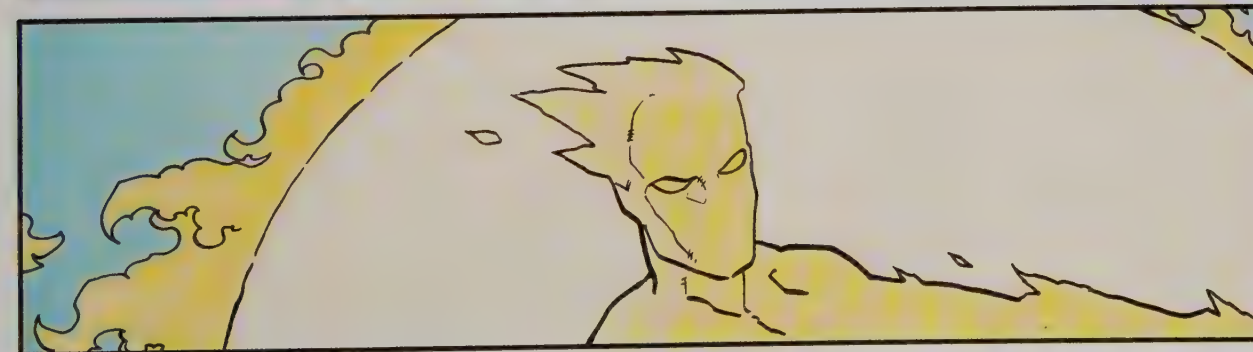
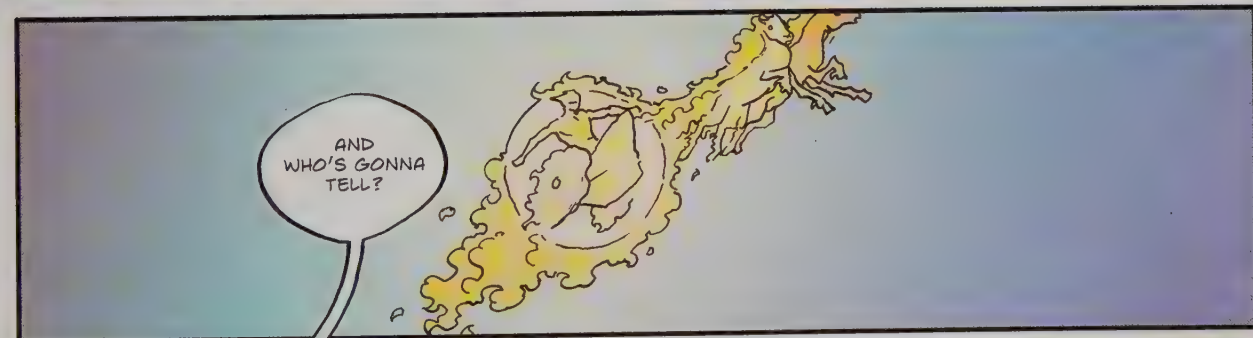
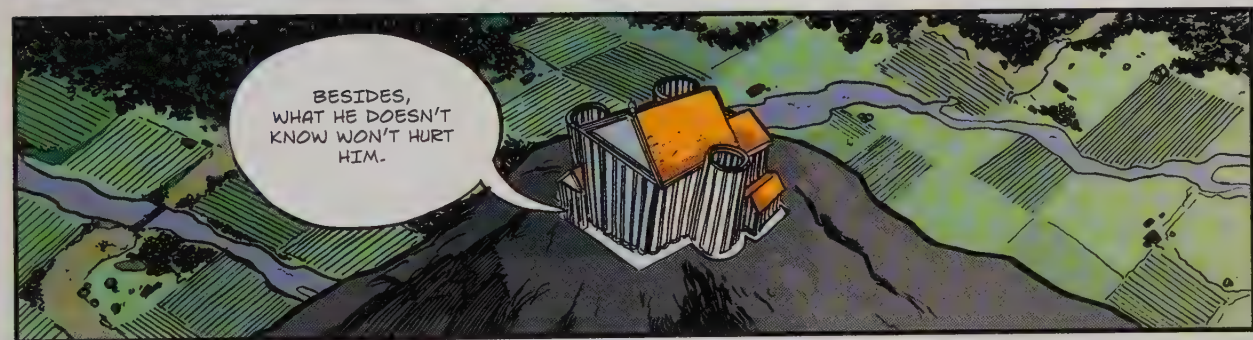
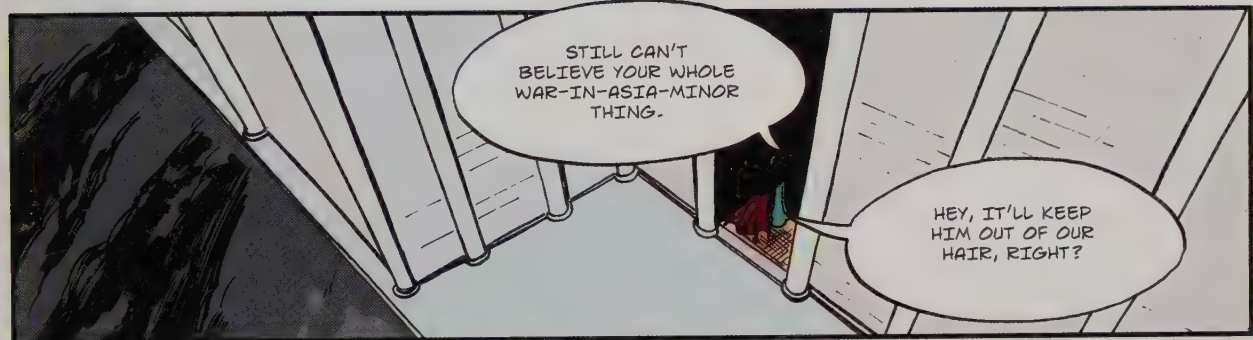
WHO CAN
TELL?

OH, LOOK AT
HIS WALK! LIKE A
FLICKERING FLAME!
ALWAYS BRINGS
A SMILE TO MY
LIPS...



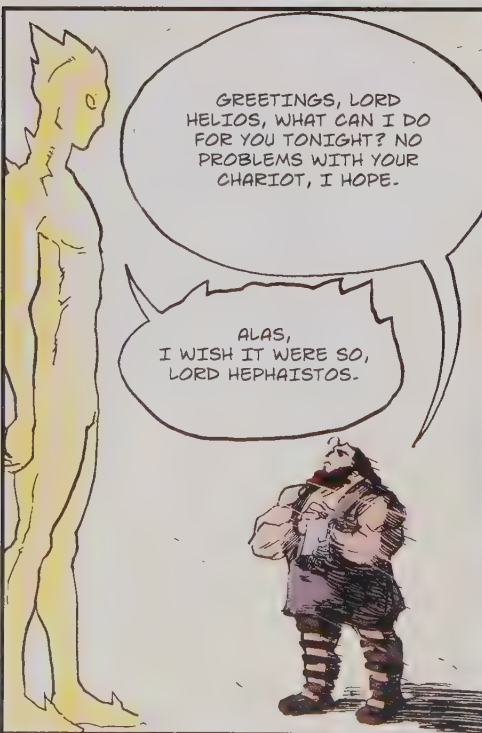






THE SUNSET
ON LEMNOS.

THE FORGE OF HEPHAISTOS.



THAT NIGHT.

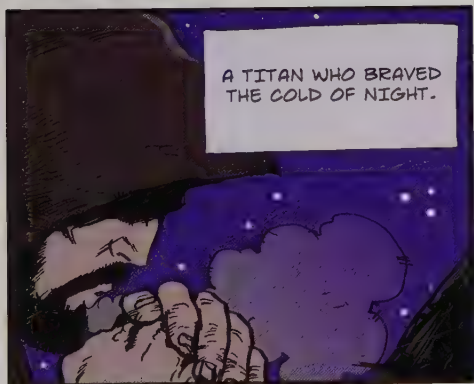


ONCE THERE
WAS A THIEF.

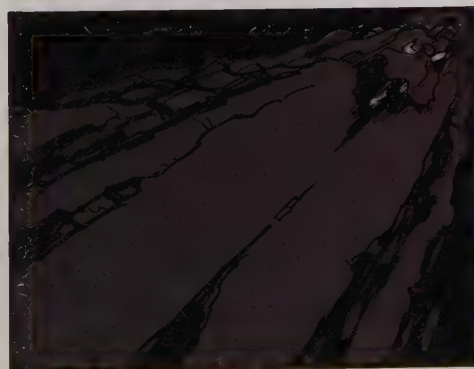
NOT A THIEF,
A TITAN.



A TITAN WHO BRAVED
THE COLD OF NIGHT.



A TITAN WHO STORMED
THE WALLS OF OLYMPUS.

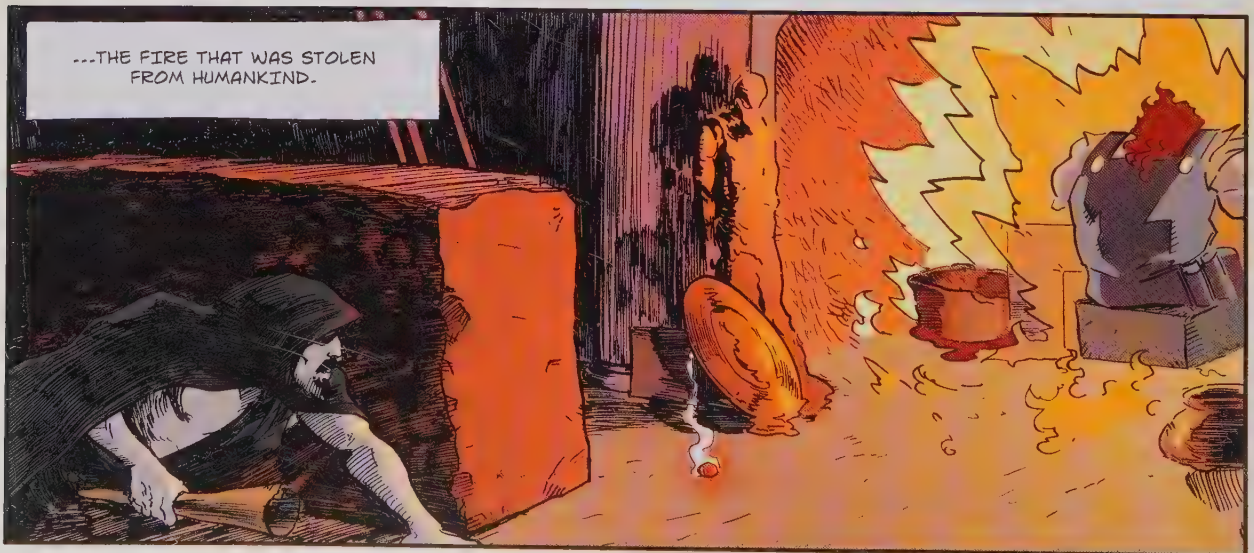




DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS
OF THE MOUNTAIN.



TO STEAL BACK
ONCE MORE---



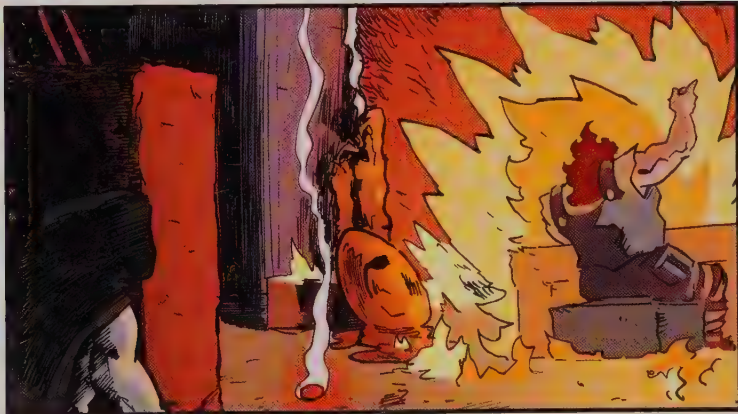
---THE FIRE THAT WAS STOLEN
FROM HUMANKIND.



EVEN FROM MY COVER, THE HEAT
COMING OFF YOU WAS MORE THAN
I COULD BEAR.

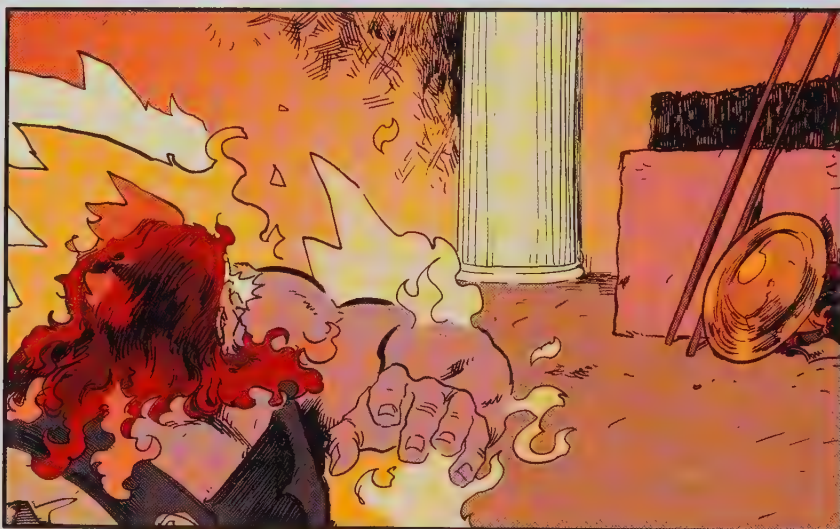
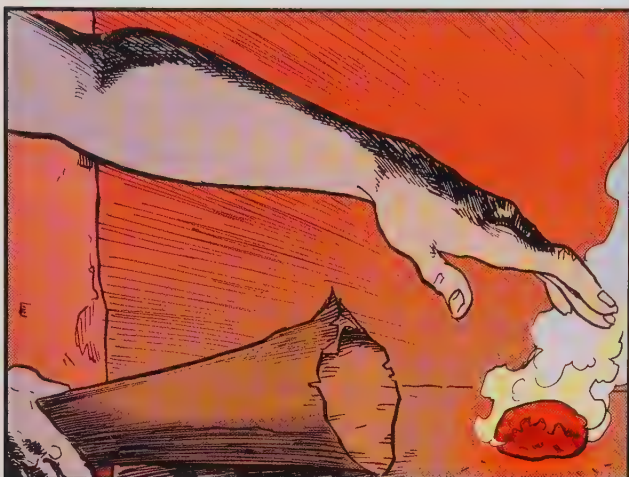


YOUR FINGERS, SO NIMBLE,
DANCED THROUGH THE FLAMES.
WHAT YOU FASHIONED,
I COULD NOT SEE.

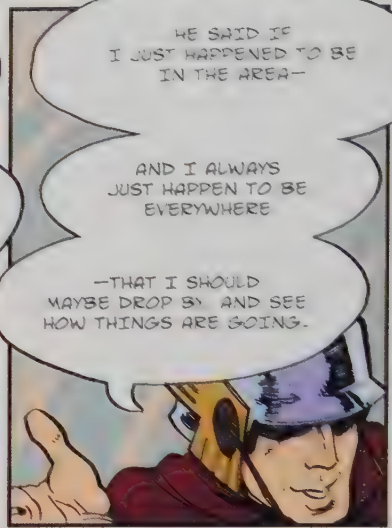


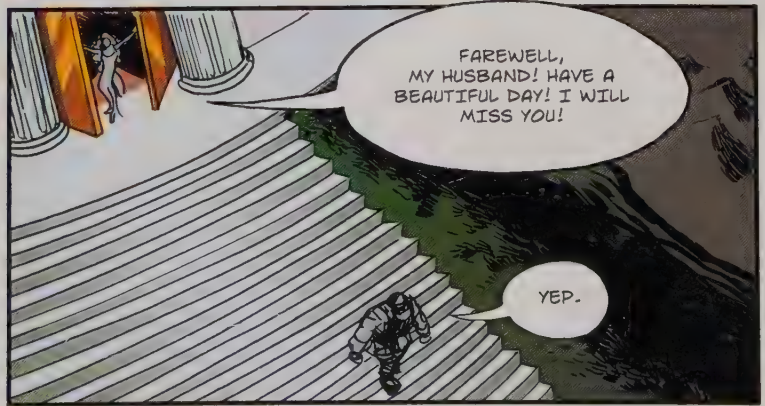
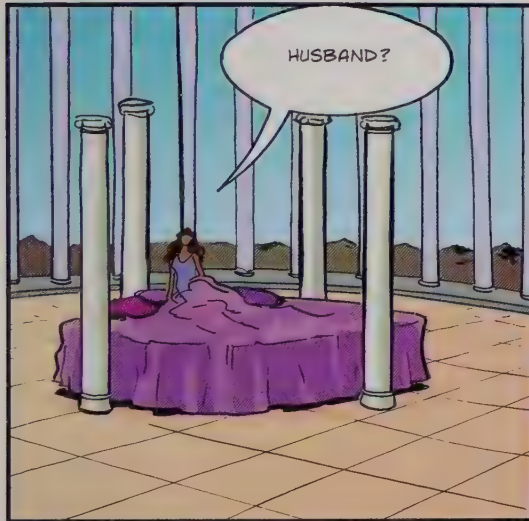
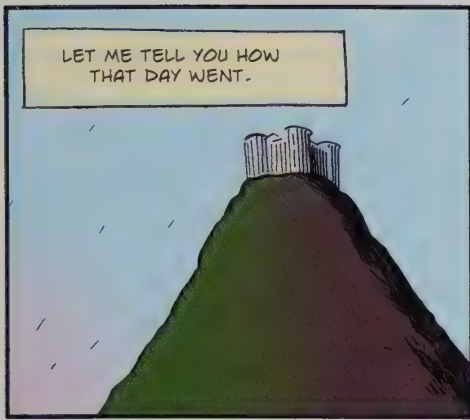
SOMETHING SO FINE, ONLY YOUR
OLYMPIAN EYES COULD DISCERN IT.





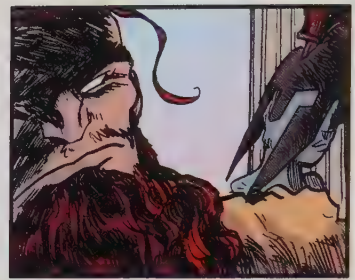
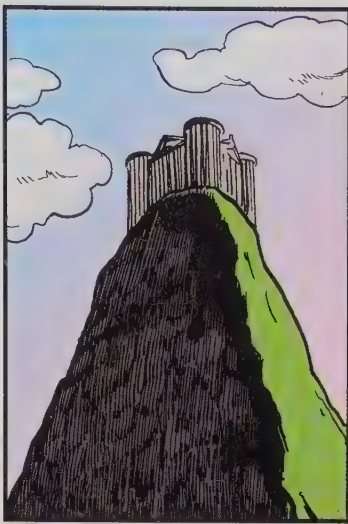














WELL, HERMES,
I GOTTA ASK: WOULD
YOU BE WILLING TO
SWAG PLACES WITH ARES
HERE?

APOLLO, OLD BUDDY,
I'D GLADLY ENDURE THREE
TIMES AS MANY INVISIBLE
BONDS, WITH ALL THE GODS
AND GODDESSES LOOKING ON,
IF IT MEANT I GOT TO
LIE WITH APHRODITE.



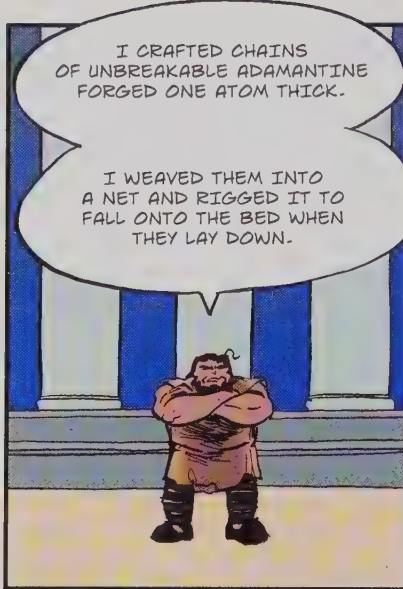
DREAM ON,
YOU CREEP!

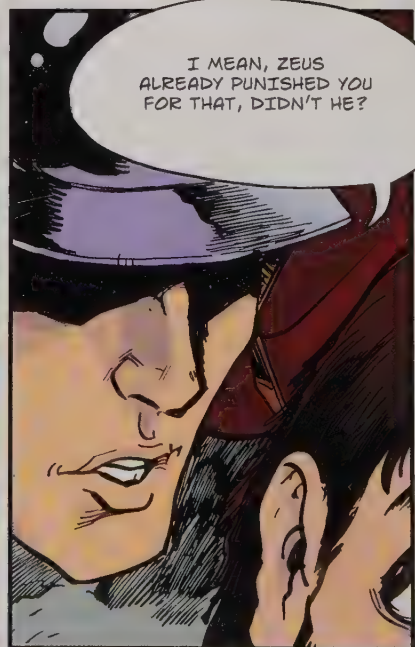
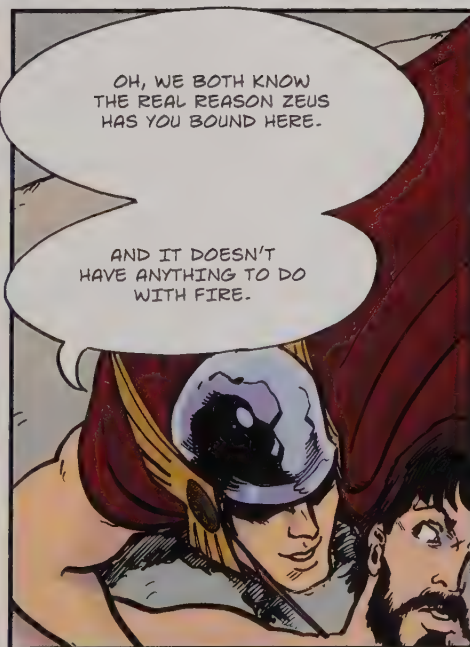
WHEN I GET OUT OF
HERE, I'M GOING TO MAKE
YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH A...
A SANDAL!

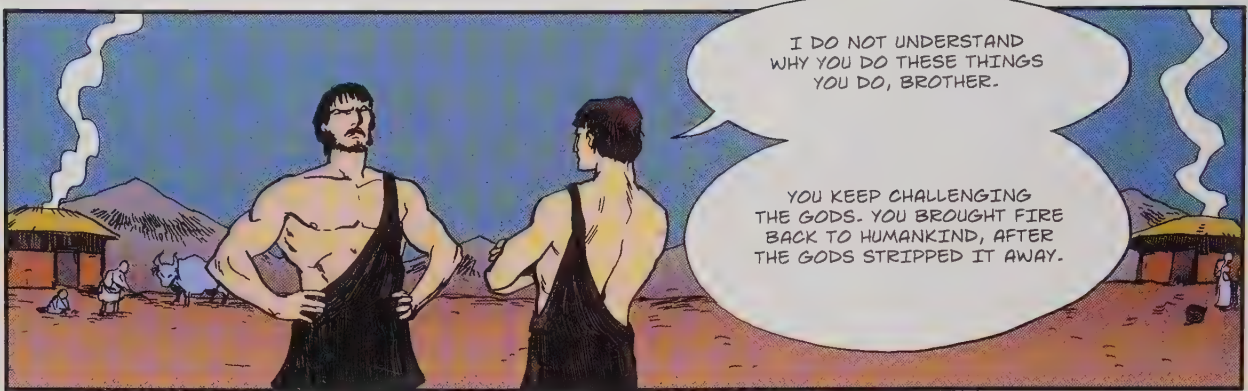
WHO'S THERE?
I CAN'T SEE!

HAHAHA!

SEE, THERE'S THAT
SPARKLING WIT THAT
DRIVES ME WILD.

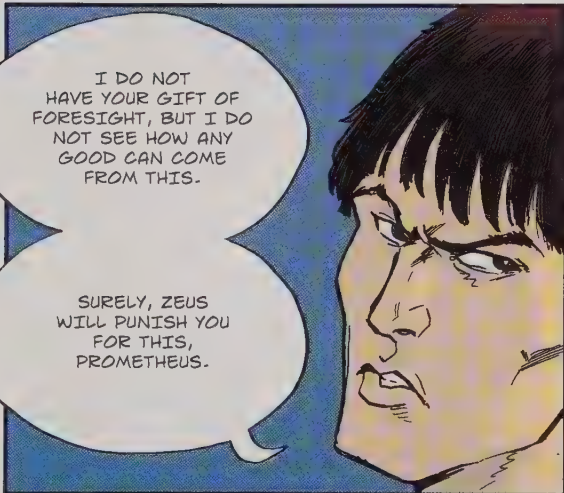






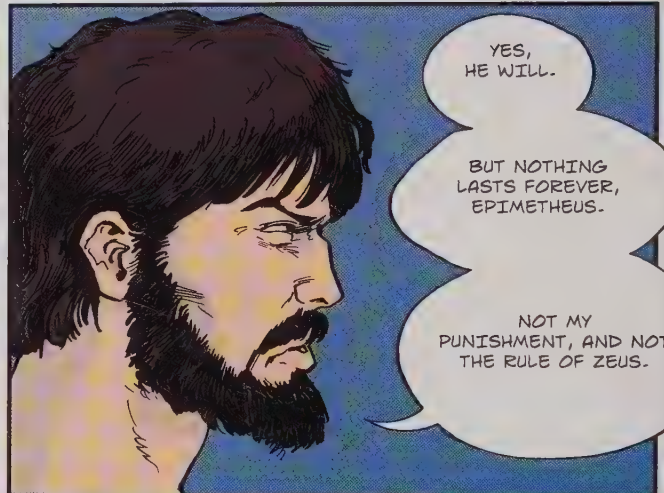
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DO THESE THINGS YOU DO, BROTHER.

YOU KEEP CHALLENGING THE GODS. YOU BROUGHT FIRE BACK TO HUMANKIND, AFTER THE GODS STRIPPED IT AWAY.



I DO NOT HAVE YOUR GIFT OF FORESIGHT, BUT I DO NOT SEE HOW ANY GOOD CAN COME FROM THIS.

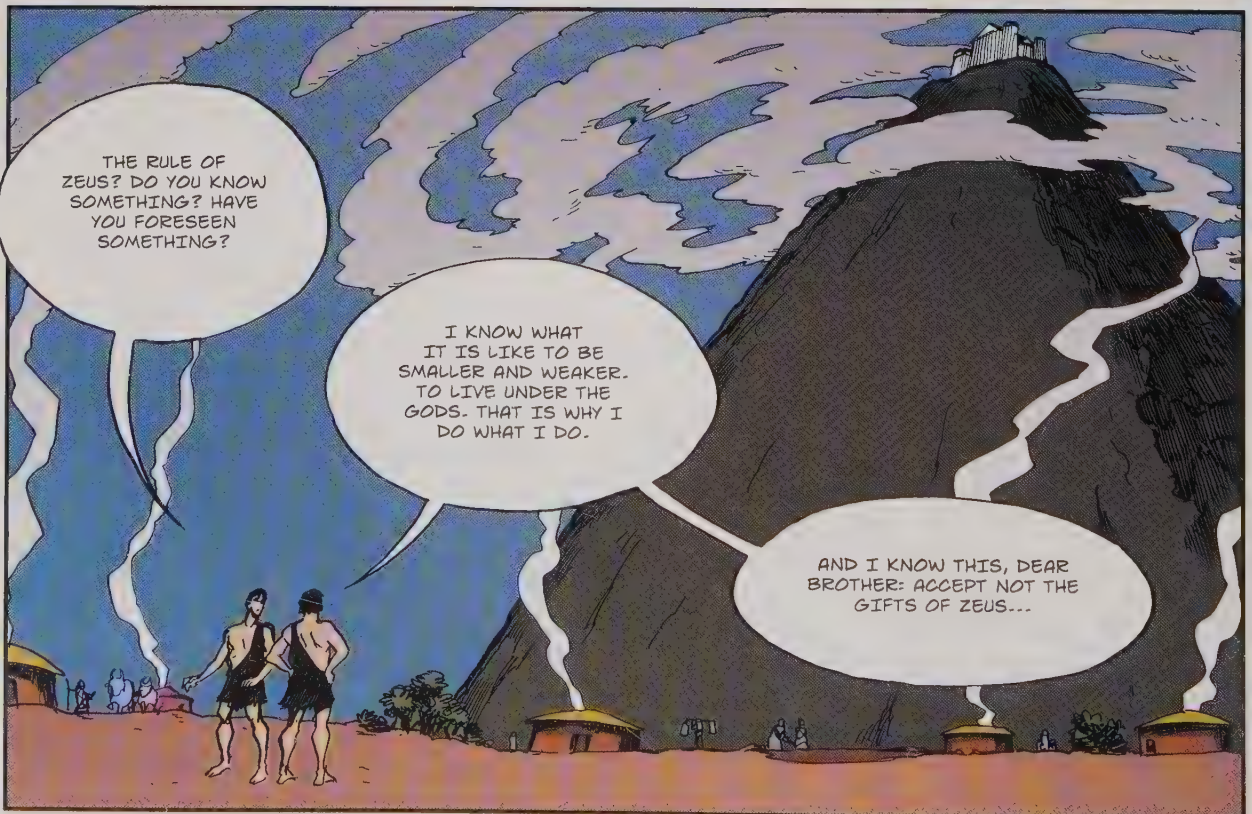
SURELY, ZEUS WILL PUNISH YOU FOR THIS, PROMETHEUS.



YES, HE WILL.

BUT NOTHING LASTS FOREVER, EPIMETHEUS.

NOT MY PUNISHMENT, AND NOT THE RULE OF ZEUS.



THE RULE OF ZEUS? DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING? HAVE YOU FORESEEN SOMETHING?

I KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE SMALLER AND WEAKER. TO LIVE UNDER THE GODS. THAT IS WHY I DO WHAT I DO.

AND I KNOW THIS, DEAR BROTHER: ACCEPT NOT THE GIFTS OF ZEUS...

ONCE THERE WAS
A WOMAN.



A PERFECT WOMAN,
FASHIONED BY THE GODS.



HEPHAISTOS SCULPTED HER
FORM AND GAVE HER THE
FIERY BREATH OF LIFE.



APHRODITE GIFTED HER
BEAUTY, GRACE, AND CHARM.

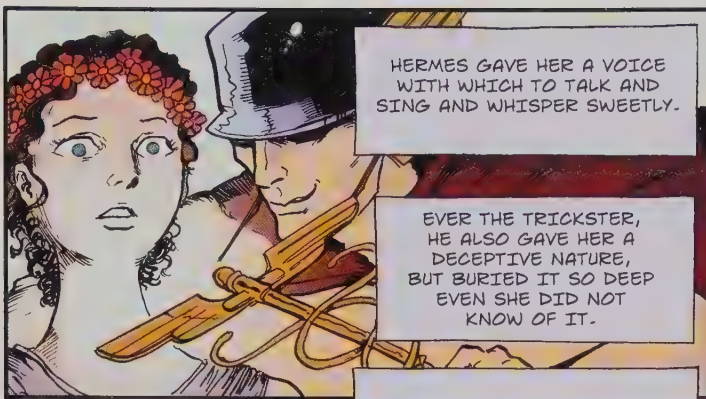


ATHENA, FINE ROBES.



DEMETER SET A GARLAND
IN HER HAIR.





HERMES GAVE HER A VOICE
WITH WHICH TO TALK AND
SING AND WHISPER SWEETLY.

EVER THE TRICKSTER,
HE ALSO GAVE HER A
DECEPTIVE NATURE,
BUT BURIED IT SO DEEP
EVEN SHE DID NOT
KNOW OF IT.

THE KING OF GODS
GAVE HER A JAR,
AND INSTRUCTIONS
TO NEVER OPEN IT.

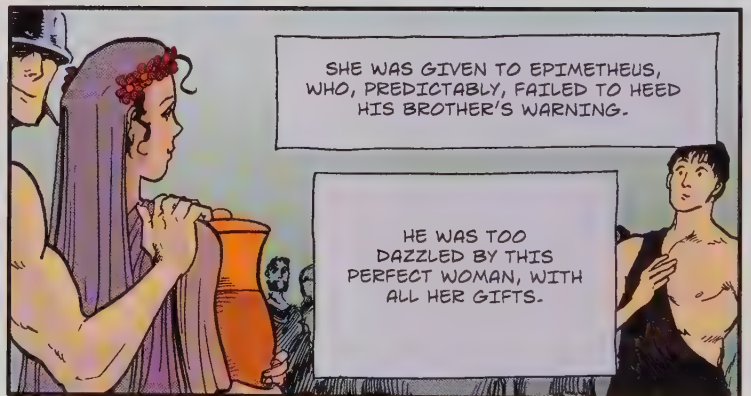
HE ALSO GAVE
HER A NAME.



PANDORA.
HER NAME MEANT "ALL GIFTS,"
BECAUSE SHE WAS SO GIFTED
BY THE GODS.



ZEUS INTENDED
PANDORA TO BE
A PUNISHMENT FOR
HUMANKIND, REVENGE
FOR PROMETHEUS'S
THEFT OF FIRE.

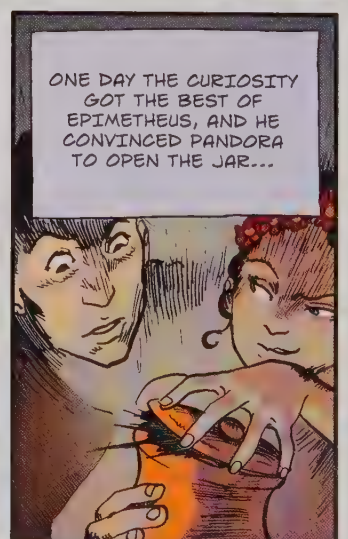


SHE WAS GIVEN TO EPIMETHEUS,
WHO, PREDICTABLY, FAILED TO HEED
HIS BROTHER'S WARNING.

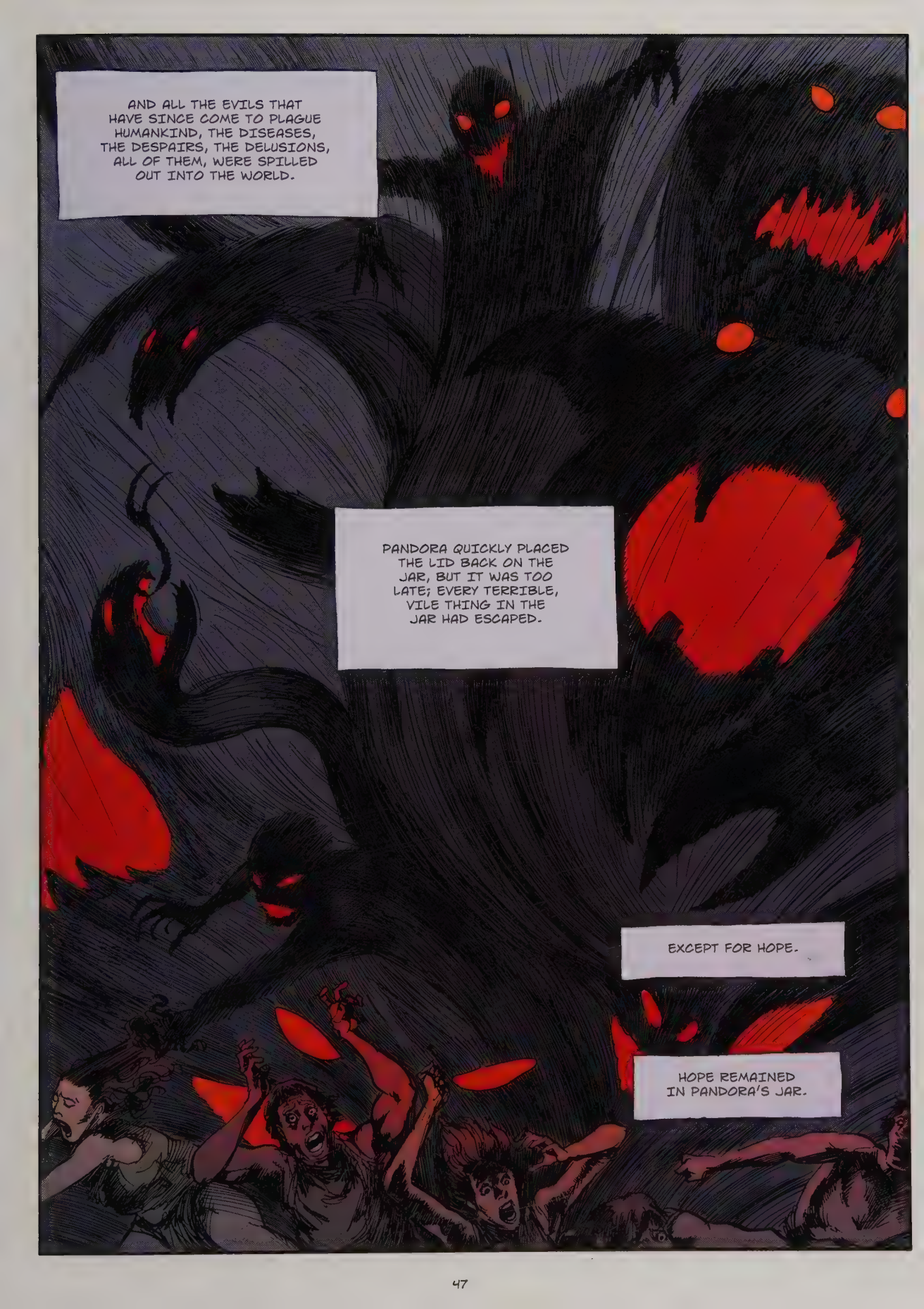
HE WAS TOO
DAZZLED BY THIS
PERFECT WOMAN, WITH
ALL HER GIFTS.



EPIMETHEUS AND PANDORA
MADE A LIFE TOGETHER,
BUT THE TEMPTATION
AND MYSTERY OF PANDORA'S
JAR ALWAYS PLAYED AT THE
EDGES OF THEIR HAPPINESS.



ONE DAY THE CURIOSITY
GOT THE BEST OF
EPIMETHEUS, AND HE
CONVINCED PANDORA
TO OPEN THE JAR...

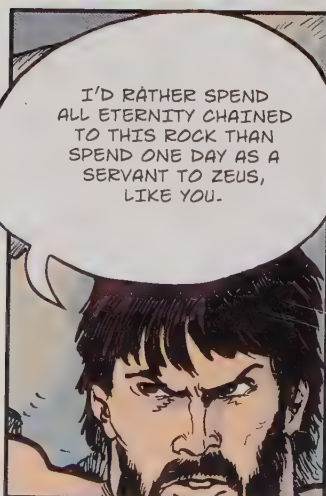
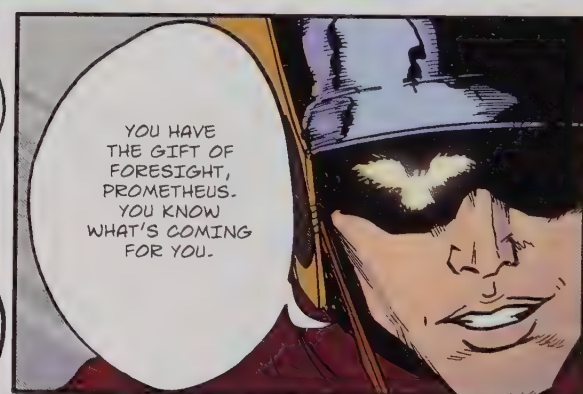
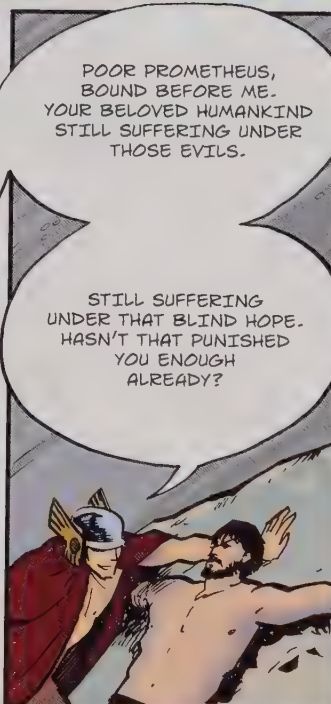
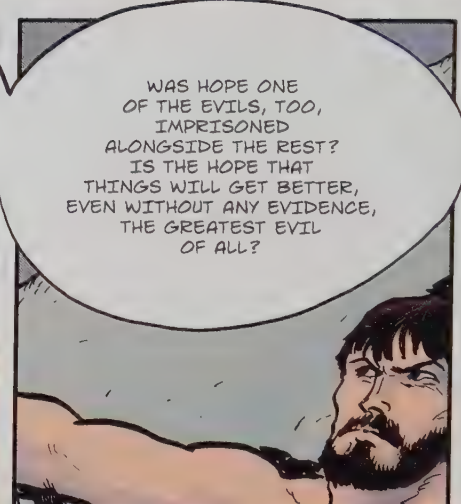
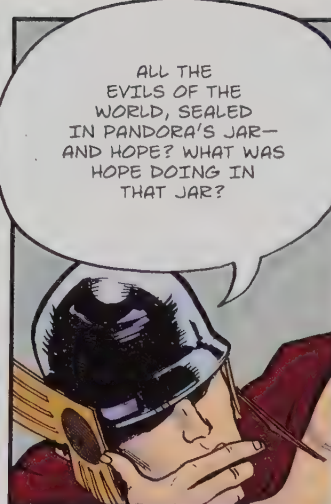


AND ALL THE EVILS THAT
HAVE SINCE COME TO PLAGUE
HUMANKIND, THE DISEASES,
THE DESPAIRS, THE DELUSIONS,
ALL OF THEM, WERE SPILLED
OUT INTO THE WORLD.

PANDORA QUICKLY PLACED
THE LID BACK ON THE
JAR, BUT IT WAS TOO
LATE; EVERY TERRIBLE,
VILE THING IN THE
JAR HAD ESCAPED.

EXCEPT FOR HOPE.

HOPE REMAINED
IN PANDORA'S JAR.



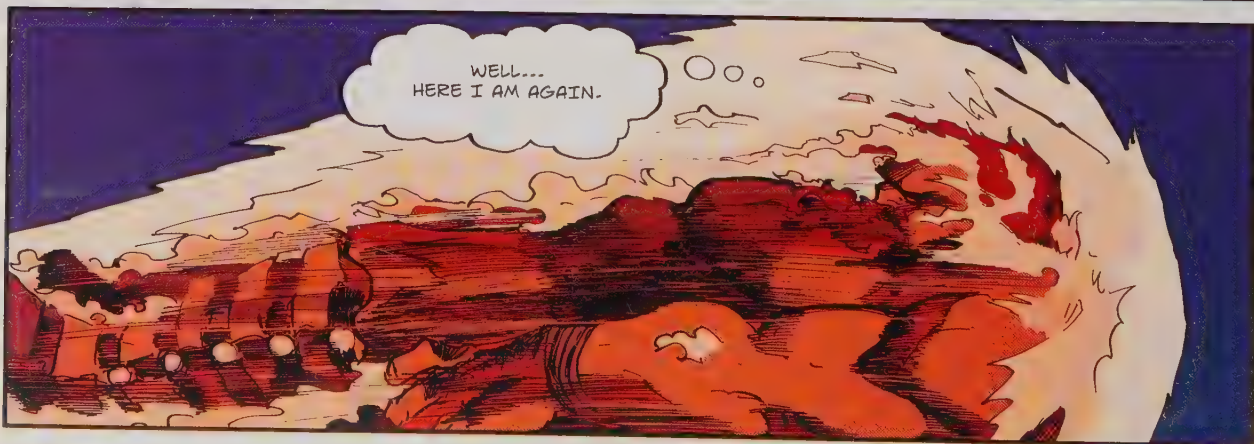




AND AS I FOUND MYSELF HURLING
THROUGH THE SKIES, CAST OFF OLYMPUS
FOR THE SECOND TIME, ONE THOUGHT
KEPT FLASHING THROUGH MY HEAD.



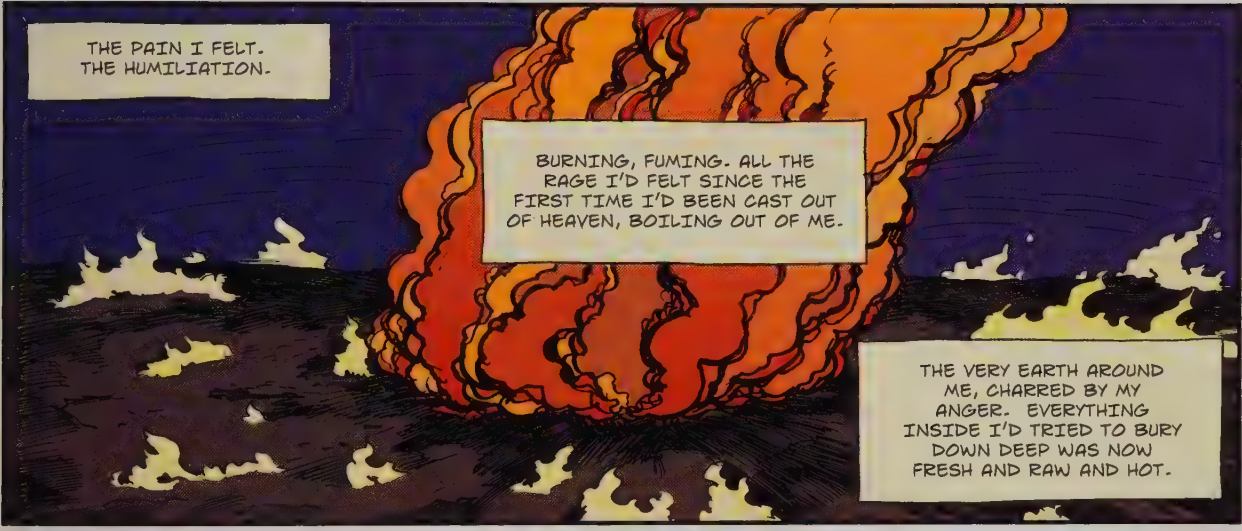
WELL...
HERE I AM AGAIN.





SO GREAT WAS MY FATHER'S
BLOW THAT I SAILED THROUGH
THE FIRMAMENT FOR A FULL DAY.

THERE WAS NO
THETIS, NO EURYNOME
TO MAKE GENTLE MY
LANDING THIS TIME.



THE PAIN I FELT.
THE HUMILIATION.

BURNING, FUMING. ALL THE
RAGE I'D FELT SINCE THE
FIRST TIME I'D BEEN CAST OUT
OF HEAVEN, BOILING OUT OF ME.

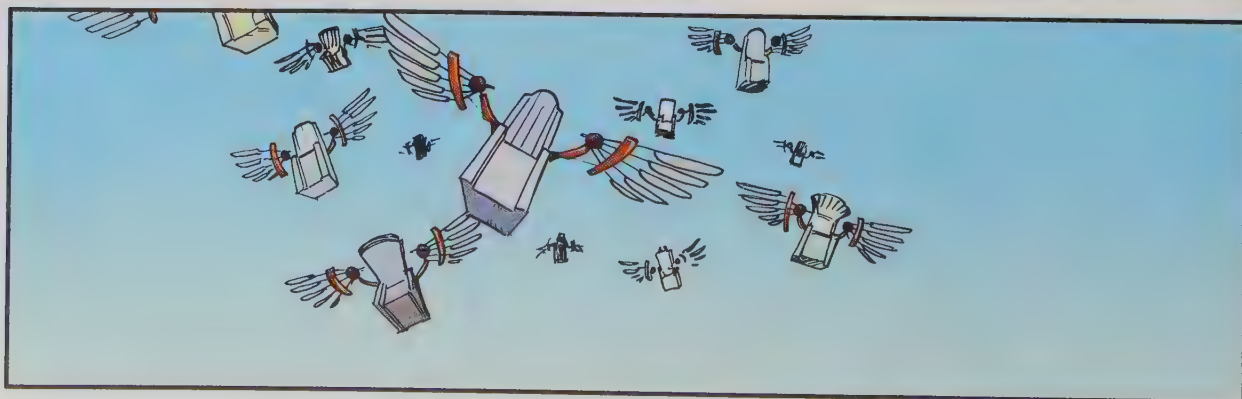
THE VERY EARTH AROUND
ME, CHARRED BY MY
ANGER. EVERYTHING
INSIDE I'D TRIED TO BURY
DOWN DEEP WAS NOW
FRESH AND RAW AND HOT.

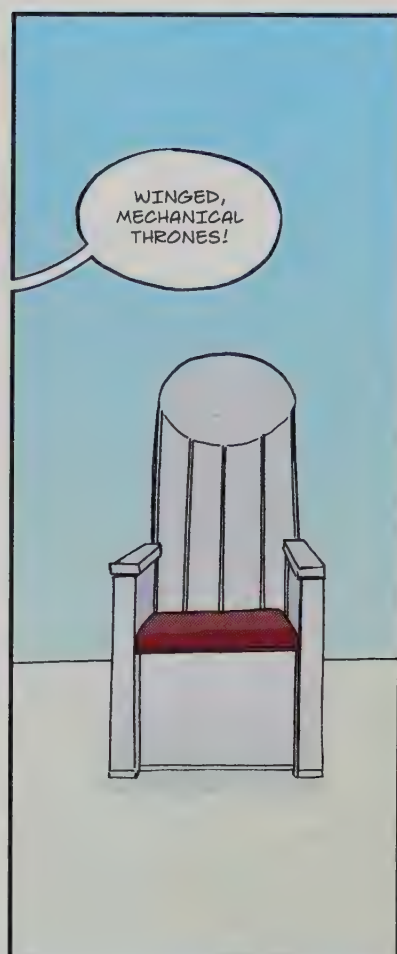
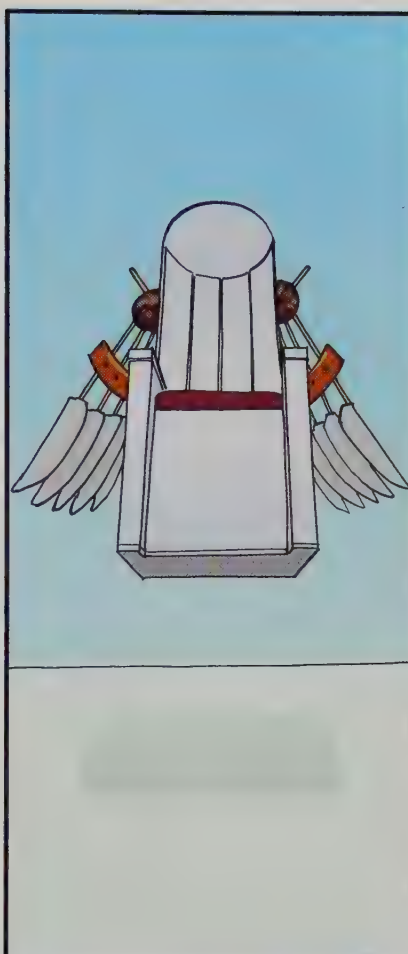
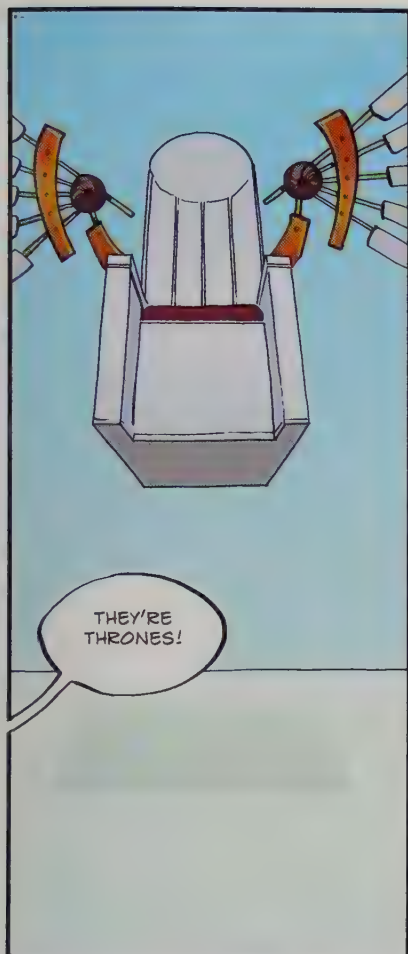


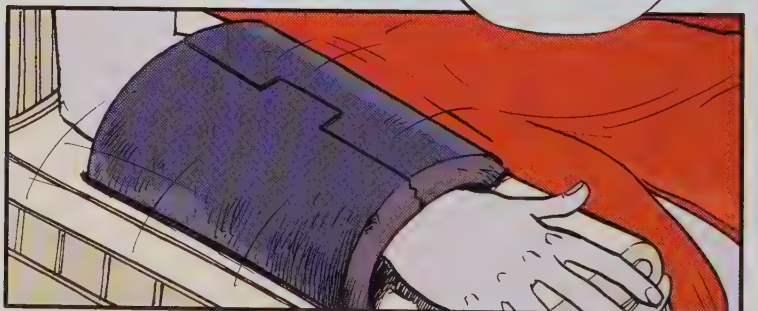
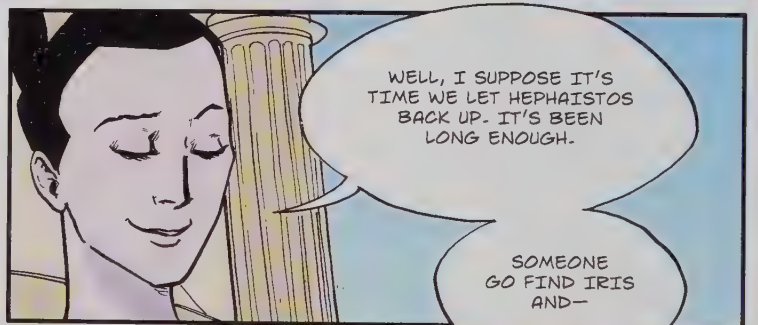
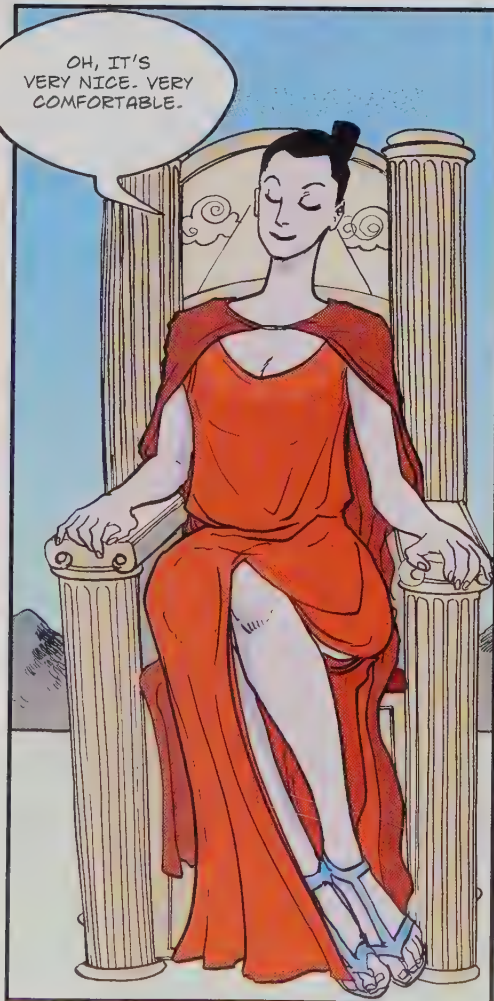
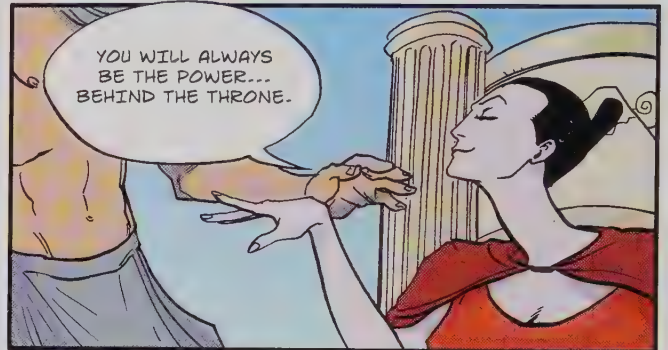
AFTER AN AGE,
I CRAWLED FROM MY
WRECKAGE. NOT ONE OF MY
FAMILY MEMBERS HAD COME
TO RETRIEVE ME.

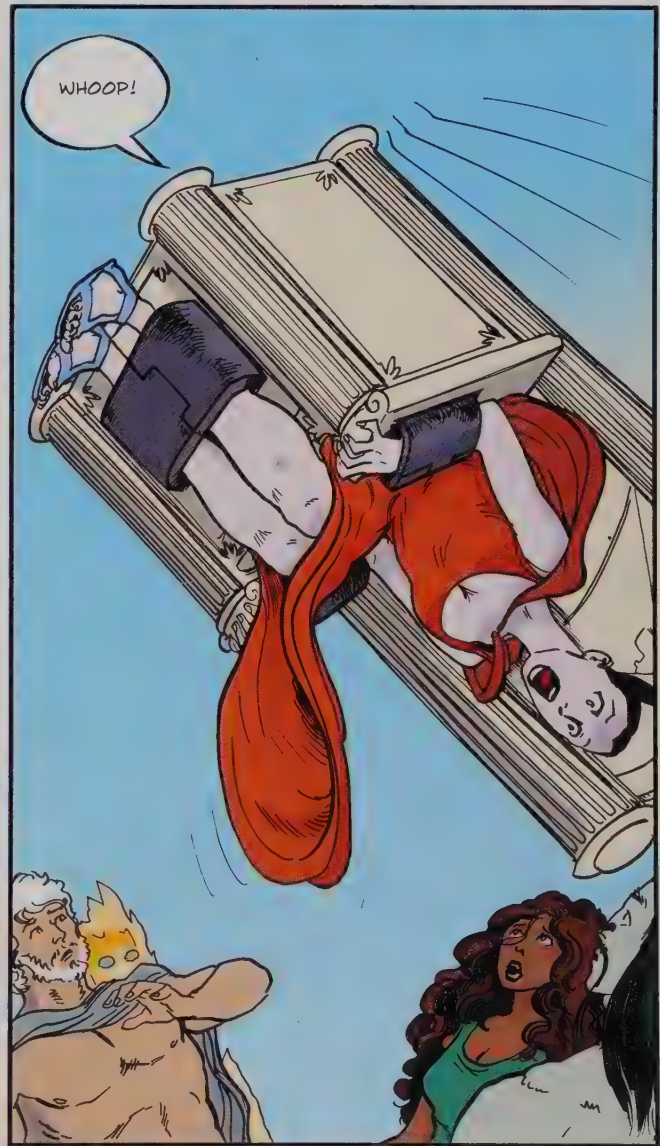
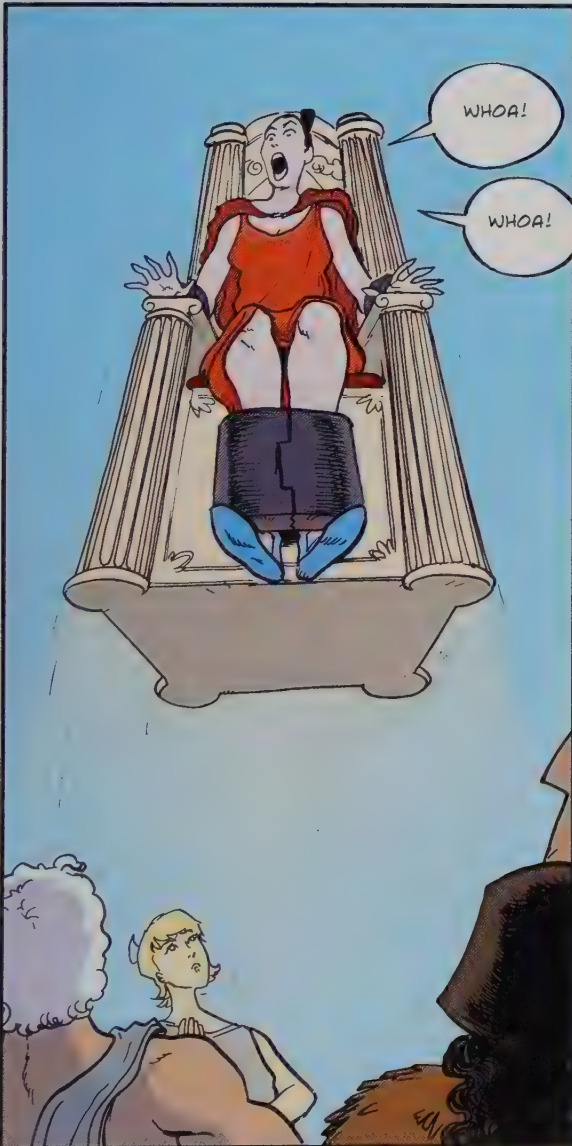
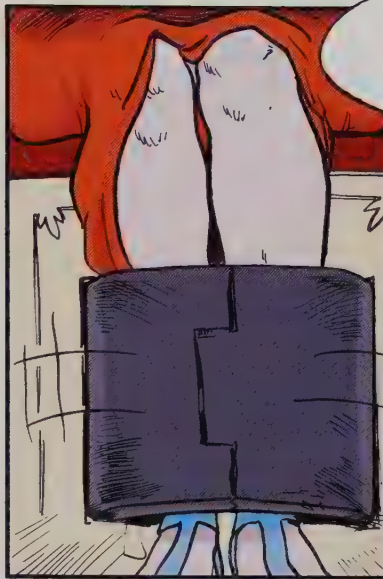
THIS TIME,
I WOULD NOT CRAWL
BACK UP TO OLYMPUS.

THIS TIME, IT WOULD
BE DIFFERENT.





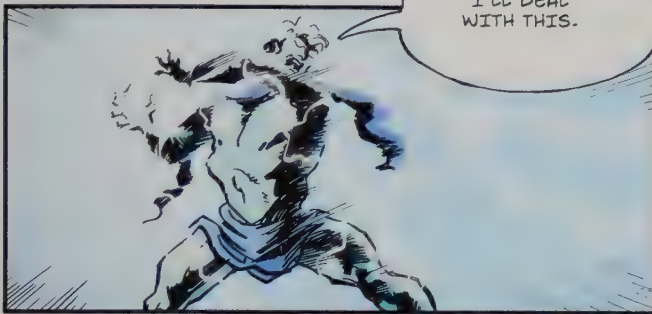




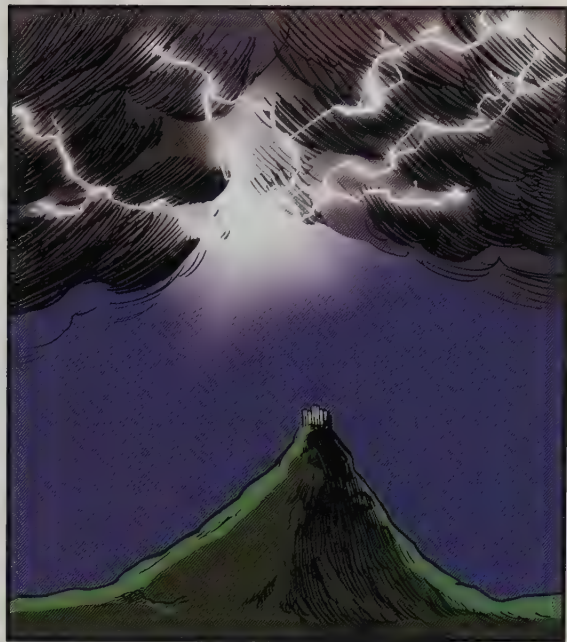




EVERYONE,
STAND BACK.



I'LL DEAL
WITH THIS.



AOOOOOW!!!

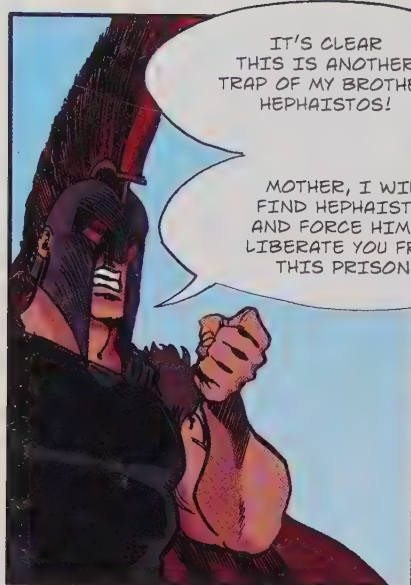


...HERA?



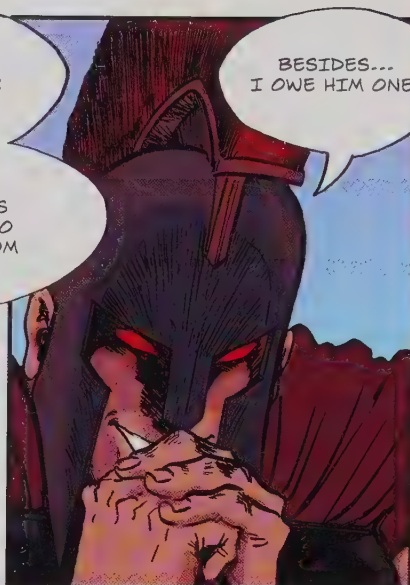
ZEUS...

WHEN I GET
OUT OF HERE...



IT'S CLEAR
THIS IS ANOTHER
TRAP OF MY BROTHER
HEPHAISTOS!

MOTHER, I WILL
FIND HEPHAISTOS
AND FORCE HIM TO
LIBERATE YOU FROM
THIS PRISON!

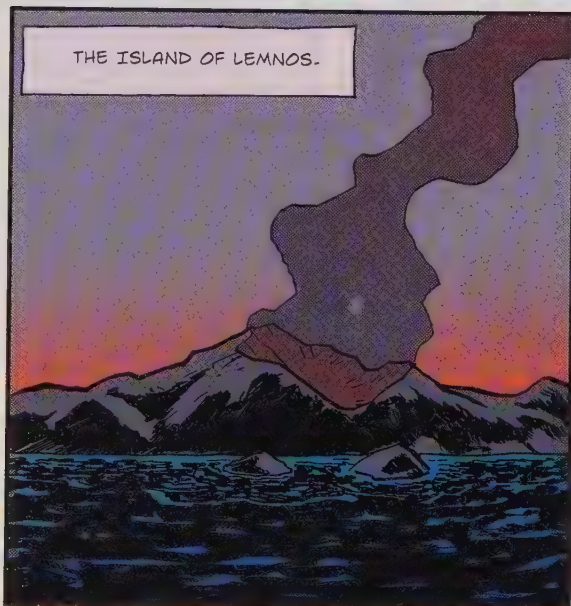


BESIDES...
I OWE HIM ONE.



YES, GO, MY SON, GO
FORTH AND FREE YOUR
MOTHER FROM THIS
SHAMEFUL PREDICAMENT!

(JUST NOT TOO
QUICKLY. GIVE
YOUR MOM A
CHANCE TO COOL
DOWN A LITTLE.)



THE ISLAND OF LEMNOS.



I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN.

RIGHT BACK
TO WHERE YOU LANDED
THE FIRST TIME YOU WERE
THROWN OUT. IT MAKES
PERFECT SENSE.



NOW YOU'VE MADE THIS LITTLE
FORTRESS FOR YOURSELF? TRYING TO
SHELTER YOURSELF FROM THE SLINGS
AND ARROWS?

POOR LITTLE
HEPHAISTOS, ALL SAD IN
HIS TOWER BECAUSE MOMMY
AND DADDY DON'T LIKE HIM!
BOOHOO! EVERYONE ON
OLYMPUS MAKES FUN
OF YOU!



YOU'RE SAD
BECAUSE THEY DON'T
LIKE YOU? BIG DEAL!
EVERYONE HATES ME,
AND I! JUST! DEAL
WITH IT!



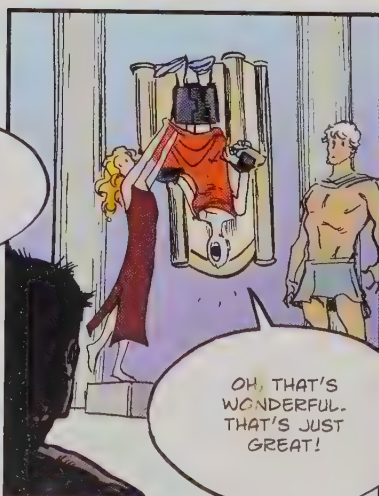
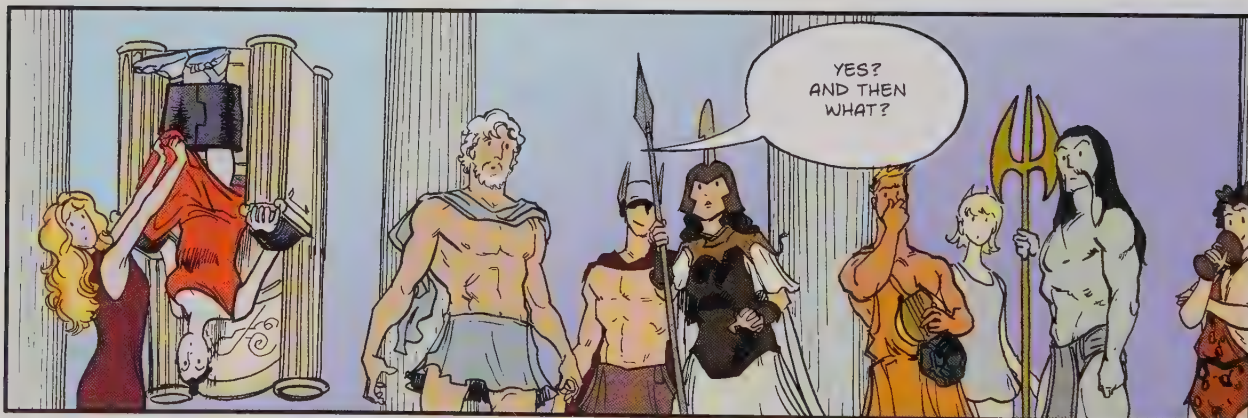
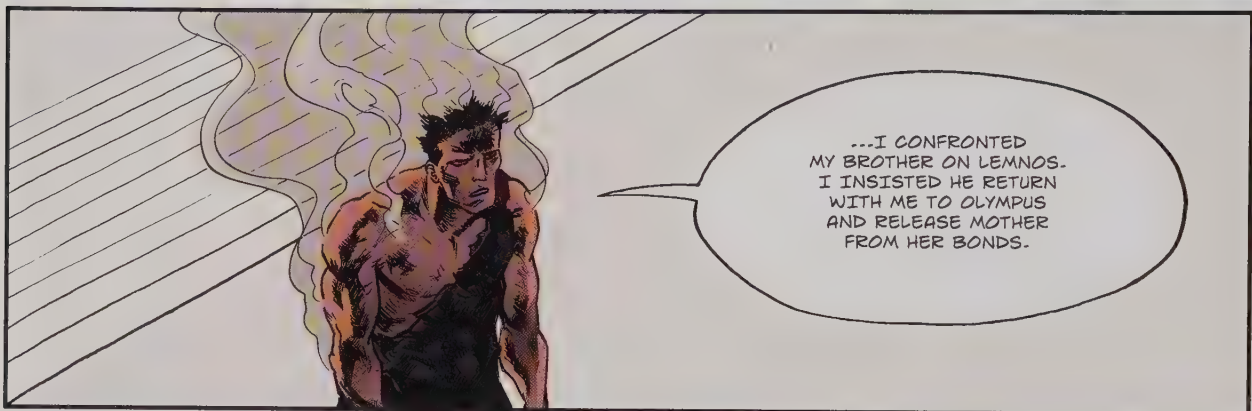
THIS... THIS IS
WHY APHRODITE NEVER
LOVED YOU.



NOW I'M GOING
TO COME UP THERE,
YOU PRECIOUS LITTLE
SISSY, AND DRAG YOU
BACK TO OLYMPUS BY YOUR
SHRIVELED LEGS!



COME AND
GET ME.





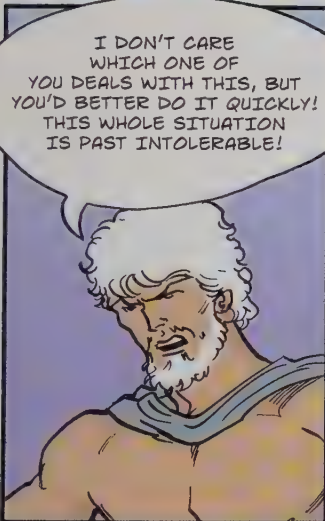
I GUESS I COULD GO TALK TO HIM, SOMEHOW TRICK HIM INTO RELEASING HERA...



MAYBE IF I PLAY FOR HIM, MY MUSIC WILL CALM HIS FIERY MOOD?



PERHAPS I SHOULD GO SPEAK WITH HIM. HE'S ALWAYS HAD A THING FOR ME...



I DON'T CARE WHICH ONE OF YOU DEALS WITH THIS, BUT YOU'D BETTER DO IT QUICKLY! THIS WHOLE SITUATION IS PAST INTOLERABLE!



HOLD MY DRINK.



I GOT THIS.



ON LEMNOS.

LORD HEPHAISTOS, YOU HAVE A VISITOR.

WHEN I SENT AWAY THE CYCLOPES, I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR. I'M NOT RECEIVING VISITORS AT THIS TIME.

WHO DID THEY SEND, ANYWAY? HERMES? IRIS?



IT'S DIONYSOS.



DIONYSOS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HEY, FROM ONE BLACK SHEEP TO ANOTHER....



WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?



-IT'S JUST, ALL MY LIFE, I'VE TRIED TO BE A GOOD SON! A DUTIFUL SON! I DO WHATEVER MY PARENTS ASK!

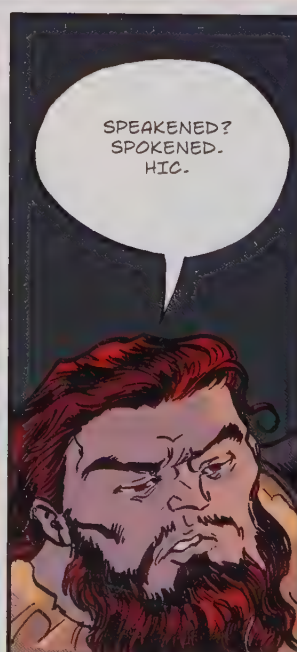
I WAS EVEN STICKING UP FOR MOTHER, WHEN FATHER THREW ME DOWN HERE!



AND DID SHE COME TO FIND ME? SEE IF I WAS OKAY? DID ANYONE?



JUST THAT JERK ARES. AND YOU. AND WE'VE BARELY SPEAKEN BEFORE.



SPEAKENED? SPOKENED. HIC.



EXCUSE ME, DIONYSOS; THIS DRINK, IT LOOSENS MY TONGUE. OVERLY SO.



YEAH, IT'S SPECIAL
THAT WAY.



HERE'S HOW IT
LOOKS FROM WHERE I'M
SITTING, BRO.

YOU FINALLY GOT THEM—
HERA, ZEUS, THE WHOLE CRAZY
FAMILY—RIGHT WHERE YOU
WANT THEM.

THEY ALL WANT
YOU BACK ON OLYMPUS,
AND THIS TIME, YOU
WON'T BE BUYING
YOUR WAY IN.



AFTER THIS?
THEY WILL
RESPECT YOU.



...THAT'S
ALL I EVER
WISHED.



I HEAR YOU,
BRO. MOM STUFF IS
TOUGH. DID I EVER TELL
YOU ABOUT MY MOM?

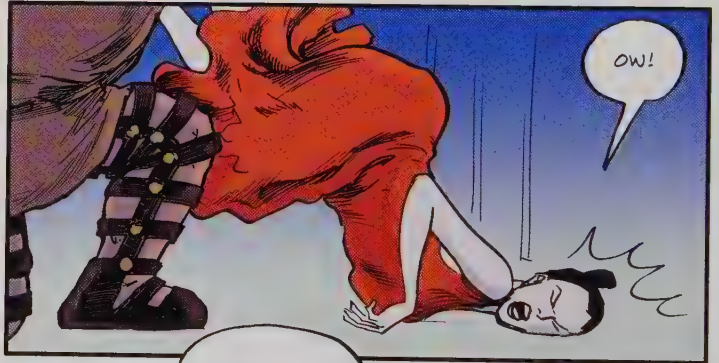
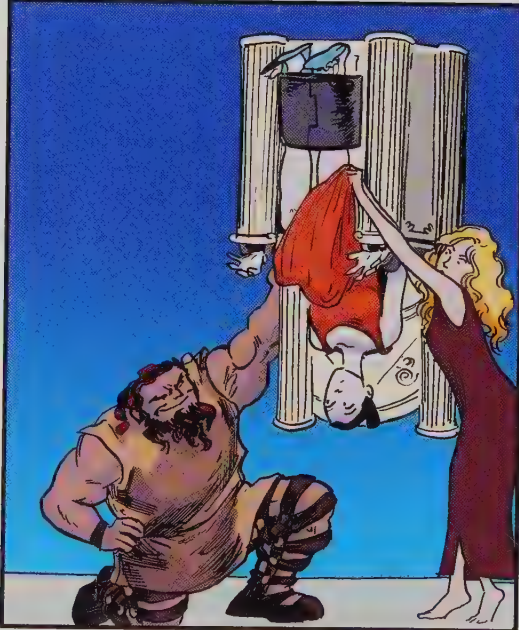
NO...

WELL,
HEPH...THAT'S A
TALE FOR ANOTHER
DAY.



NOW,
LET'S GET YOU
HOME.

THERE WAS A PROCESSION.





ONCE THERE WAS A GOD.

A STUNTED CHILD OF GODS.



WHO, THROUGH CRAFT,



THROUGH INGENUITY,



THROUGH INTIMIDATION,



AND, FINALLY,
THROUGH STRENGTH,
FOR HE KNEW WHAT IT
WAS LIKE TO BE WEAK,



FOUND HIS PLACE
ON MOUNT OLYMPUS.

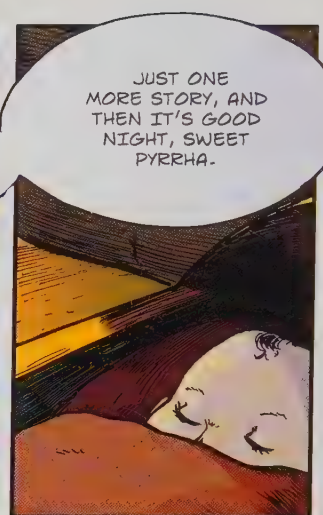


EPIMETHEUS!
ARE YOU STILL TELLING
STORIES? OUR DAUGHTER
NEEDS TO GO TO
SLEEP!

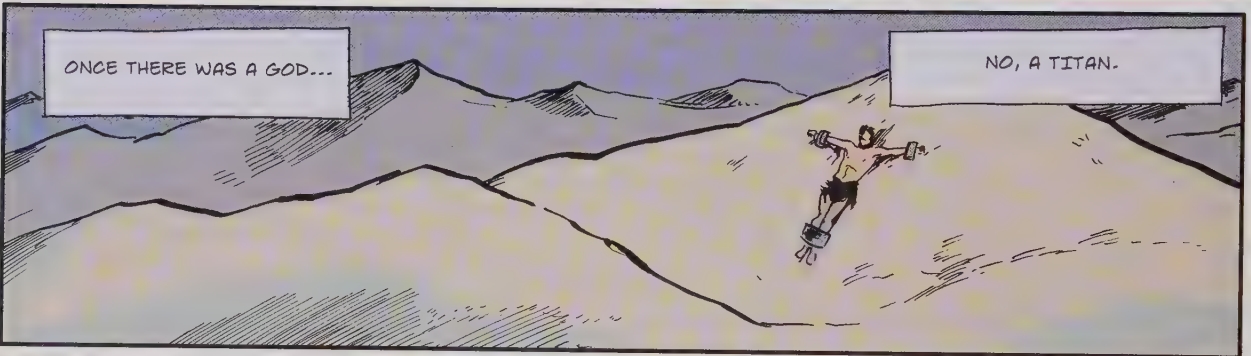


SORRY,
PANDORA. YOU
KNOW ME...

I'M ALWAYS
LOOKING BACK.



JUST ONE
MORE STORY, AND
THEN IT'S GOOD
NIGHT, SWEET
PYRHA.

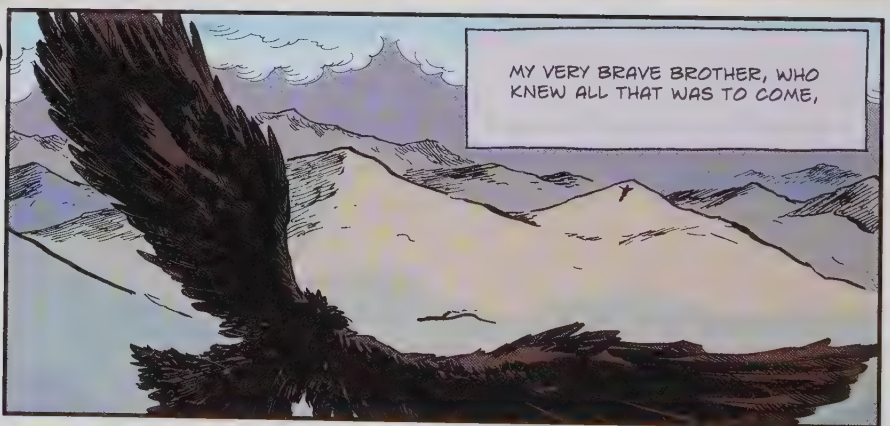


ONCE THERE WAS A GOD...

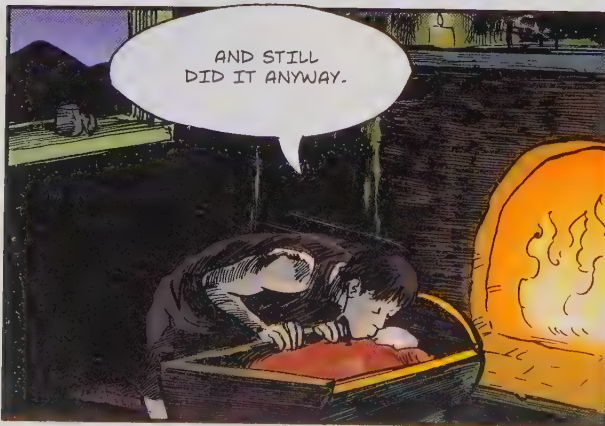
NO, A TITAN.



MY BROTHER.



MY VERY BRAVE BROTHER, WHO
KNEW ALL THAT WAS TO COME,



AND STILL
DID IT ANYWAY.







I've been working on OLYMPIANS for a pretty long time now.

Roughly ten years, by my reckoning. About as long as it took Odysseus to return home after the Trojan War. Maybe even as long as the Titanomachy, the clash between the gods and the Titans. That's probably longer than a lot of my readers have even been alive.

As I near the completion of this series, I find it interesting to see how much my vision of it has changed. Not just in the art, though that is worth mentioning—for a decade now, I've been drawing the adventures of fantastically beautiful gods and goddesses. It was a welcome change to get grimy and gritty and chronicle the adventures of ugly ol' Hephaistos (although he's really not that ugly, is he, folks?). No, my vision of the series has changed in the writing as well.

My initial plan for the book you are holding was that, as Hephaistos was binding him to the Caucasus Mountains, wily Prometheus would subject Hephaistos to a withering armchair-psychology diagnosis. The ugliness of Hephaistos was going to be the crux of this volume—specifically, *why* is Hephaistos ugly? He, like all the Olympians, can assume any form he wants. I was going to reveal, essentially, through the stories I retold and Prometheus's questioning, that Hephaistos basically has bad self-esteem. The guy has had a lot of hard knocks; it would be totally understandable if he did. And that bad self-image, then, is what caused Hephaistos to manifest himself as an ugly man.

Here's the thing, though. You hear writers talk a lot about this: When they are writing characters that they have been writing for a long time, after a while...the characters begin writing themselves.

And let me tell you, that is totally true. As much as I tried to wrestle Hephaistos into an unsure and self-pitying role, he refused to bend and yield. Through force and strength, he showed me that while he has been victimized, he does not sit back and take it. Hephaistos is not a shy, withdrawn figure—he returns to Olympus like a boss. He is sweet-tempered and good-natured, but when a line is crossed, he literally erupts like a volcano. Whatever else Hephaistos might suffer from, a poor self-image is not one of his afflictions.

So the question of why Hephaistos manifests himself as an ugly man remains unanswered, at least by this humble scribe, and instead has been ferried off to the "For Discussion" section of this book, where more nimble minds than mine might take a crack at it.

It's been my honor and greatest pleasure to write these books. I'll miss these gods, goddesses, heroes, and monsters, who will have been my constant companions for over a decade once I have finished this series.

But I doubt I'll be missing them forever. After all, they've begun writing themselves...

George O'Connor
Brooklyn, NY
2019



HEPHAISTOS

GOD OF FIRE

GOD OF Fire, Blacksmiths, Craftsmen, Technology, Volcanism

ROMAN NAME Vulcan

SYMBOLS Fire, the Forge, Hammer, Blacksmith Tongs, Axe

SACRED ANIMALS Donkey (his mount on his return to Olympus), Crane, Ox, Oyster (because of their pearls)

SACRED PLACES Lemnos (center of his cult and thought to be the site of his workshop); Mount Etna, Sicily (another site believed to be home to his workshop); Hephaisteion (his temple in Athens—one of the best preserved of all Greek temples)

MONTH September

HEAVENLY BODIES There is a near-Earth asteroid named 2212 Hephaistos. Much more famously, in the Star Trek universe, the character Spock was born on Vulcan (from Hephaistos's Roman name). The inhabitants of this planet are likewise known as Vulcans.

MODERN LEGACY The modern word "volcano" is derived from Hephaistos's Roman name. The ancients believed volcanic eruptions were inadvertently caused by this god as he worked at his forge.



R GREEK NOTES

PAGES 2-5: Many of these panels are reworkings of what we read in OLYMPIANS Book 1, *Zeus: King of the Gods*. It was very fun for me to go back and revisit these images and redraw them, and see how much my artistic style has evolved over the course of this series.

PAGE 6: The scenes in this book between Prometheus and Hephaistos are loosely based on *Prometheus Bound*, the ancient Greek tragedy by Aeschylus. If you've read that play or seen it performed, some of this dialogue might sound somewhat familiar to you.

PAGE 7, PANEL 4: "On Mount Olympus, the home of the gods. The tallest mountain left standing after their war with the Titans."—If you're a regular reader of these books and their attendant Greek Notes, you doubtless know that I have included this line, or some variation of it, in every volume of OLYMPIANS—or so I thought. Recently, an astute young reader of OLYMPIANS pointed out to me that I, in fact, do not have this line anywhere in OLYMPIANS Book 3, *Hera: The Goddess and Her Glory*. To that I say, well, nothing is perfect.

But seriously, if any reader out there has a time machine, please hit me up. I have a change I need to make.

PAGE 8, PANEL 2: You can tell this takes place early on in Olympian history, because Poseidon ain't rocking his stylish mustache yet.

PAGE 8, PANEL 4: Zeus was...elsewhere with Leto, mother of Apollo and Artemis, as we saw in OLYMPIANS Book 9, *Artemis: Wild Goddess of the Hunt*.

PAGE 9, PANELS 4-7: In some myths, Hera conceives Hephaistos alone, with no input from Zeus. Her striking the ground here, with enough force to rock Olympus, is a nod to other traditions wherein Hera conceives the monstrous Typhon solo (seen in OLYMPIANS Book 10, *Hermes: Tales of the Trickster*) by striking the earth with her palm.

PAGE 10, PANEL 1: One of the great challenges of adulthood is when your friend presents you with their ugly newborn child and you need to pretend how cute said child is. Hera would fail that test big-time.

PAGE 12, PANEL 4: We've previously met Thetis in OLYMPIANS Books 6 and 7, *Aphrodite: Goddess of Love* and *Ares: Bringer of War*. Eurynome is mentioned briefly in *Hera: The Goddess and Her Glory* and glimpsed (but not named explicitly!) in *Zeus: King of the Gods*.

PAGE 15: This is why, on page 7, Prometheus mentions that Olympus "looked different then." Whenever I draw a pre-Hephaistos Mount Olympus, I draw it in the architectural style of the Minoans, to reflect the earlier time period. Go back and check out previous installments of OLYMPIANS if you don't believe me. I tell you this now because I want you to notice how very clever I am.

PAGE 16, PANEL 3: I modeled Hephaistos's automatons on the ancient Greek Korai sculptures, with their archaic smiles. As an aside, how cool is it that Hephaistos has robots? Talk about being ahead of the curve!

PAGE 17, PANEL 2: Behold Talos, proud holder of the title of Greatest Disparity between Amount of Design Prep vs. Actual Appearance in a Book. You see, in some myths, Talos is a robot man; in others, a robot bull. As a child of the 1980s, I thought, *Ooh, I'll make him a Transformer!* I've drawn Talos about eleventy jillion times, working out both humanoid and tauroid forms and how he would transition between each—all for this one glorious panel. Bon appétit!

PAGE 20: The whole practice of burning sacrifices to the gods was initiated by Hermes in *Hermes: Tales of the*

Trickster. There was a lot of debate, back in the day, on whether or not Zeus is tricked by Prometheus here. After all, Zeus is meant to be infallible—how could he be tricked? Many of the ancient Greek writers maintained that Zeus does this on purpose, for reasons only he can discern. I leave it up to you, the reader, to decide.

PAGE 23, PANEL 6: “Strength and force” is a nod to *Prometheus Bound*, in which Hephaistos is accompanied by two entities named Kratos and Bia, whose names mean, literally, “strength” and “force.”

PAGE 24, PANEL 4: You may think you have a crummy job, but imagine poor Hebe, stuck for eternity as the waitress to the gods, most of whom are her brothers and sisters.

PAGE 25, PANEL 1: “Like an Erinyes”—We met the Erinyes, also known as the Furies, in *OLYMPIANS* Book 4, *Hades: Lord of the Dead*. Once the Erinyes have been set on a target, they will never, ever stop pursuing them. Normally, they appear in threes, but Erinyes is the singular form.

PAGE 26, PANEL 6: I just want to point out how amused I am with myself for working the name Hephty-Wefty into this book.

PAGE 27, PANEL 5: I didn’t invent the idea of Hephaistos harboring a crush on Athena. In fact, the legendary early ruler of Athens, Erichthonius, was born out of an aborted attempt at a union between the two gods by Hephaistos.

PAGE 28, PANEL 1: Seriously, Apollo.

PAGE 28, PANEL 3: Dionysos doesn’t just bring his own drinks; he usually can be counted on to bring his own party.

PAGE 29: Santa Claus has nothing on Helios when it comes to the whole “He knows when you’ve been naughty” shtick.

PAGE 30, PANEL 2: The composition of this panel is an homage to the painting *Apollo in the Forge of Vulcan*, by Diego Velázquez. As an aside, if my hypothetical reader who owns a time machine could go back and let the esteemed Sr. Velázquez know that the title should be *Sol (or Helios) in the Forge of Vulcan*, I’d be much obliged, thank you.

PAGE 36, PANEL 4: Both Hermes and Prometheus could be considered trickster gods, so it makes sense that Hermes would recognize Prometheus as trouble.

PAGE 38, PANEL 1: Busts of Eurynome and Thetis, his two “moms,” flank the entranceway to Hephaistos’s palace.

PAGE 41, PANEL 2: Aphrodite’s sandal comment here is a reference to a myth in which Hermes does eventually seduce Aphrodite by stealing her sandal. It’s from that union that their child, Hermaphrodite, is born.

PAGE 42, PANEL 1: I just want to say that this is my favorite drawing of Apollo I’ve ever done.

PAGE 42, PANEL 7: I would love to write a three-hundred-page graphic novel of just Hermes and Apollo hanging out and being goofballs together.

PAGE 42, PANEL 9: One of my favorite cool factoids I like to throw out at parties is that at the time *The Iliad* is set, Hephaistos and Aphrodite are officially divorced! Who knew they had divorce in ancient Greece? As a sidenote, I don’t get invited to many parties, and this may be why.

PAGE 43, PANEL 6: Hmmm...

PAGE 44, PANEL 3: Double hmmm...

PAGE 48, PANELS 1-4: The nature of hope being imprisoned in Pandora's jar is a great conversation starter at parties. Again, I don't get invited to many.

PAGE 48, PANEL 6: Eye see what you did there...

PAGE 50, PANEL 4: It's only in reading this now that I realize this may be an unconscious reference to the last line of the final episode of the late, lamented space-western TV show *Firefly*. Man, I like *Firefly*...

PAGE 56, PANEL 5: Gods have golden ichor flowing through their veins instead of plain ol' red blood.

PAGE 57, PANEL 4: You may have noticed that the adamantine bands holding Hera's legs seem to have disappeared. "Oho!" you undoubtedly say aloud to yourself. "I seem to have caught the illustrious Mr. O'Connor making quite the gaffe!" To which I might reply, "Not so fast, True Believer! The electricity coursing through Hera's body is glowing so brightly, it creates the illusion that the bands are transparent!" Now aren't you glad you realized I didn't make a drawing mistake? On to the next note!

PAGE 58, PANEL 3: Cue humorous trombone sound. *Womp womp wooommpp...*

PAGE 59, PANEL 1: Cue humorous trombone sound. *Ouch.*

PAGE 60, PANEL 4: Ares, master of the understatement.

PAGE 61, PANEL 6: After eleven volumes of largely hanging out in the background, Dionysos finally steps up to the plate.

PAGE 63, PANEL 5: Look for this story in the upcoming OLYMPIANS Book 12, *Dionysos: The Yet to Be Subtitled*.

PAGE 64, PANEL 2: See? I told you Dionysos brings his own party.

PAGE 66: Things end happily enough in this book for Hephaistos, but what about poor Prometheus? Well, that eagle we see in panel 6? It's flying over to Prometheus to eat his liver. Prometheus, being immortal, won't die from this, and his liver will regenerate. Unfortunately, the eagle will return EVERY DAY to eat his liver once again.

This is one of the most famous punishments in all of mythology—heck, in all of everything, period. Why is Prometheus being thusly punished? Is it for returning fire to humankind? If Zeus is so upset about that, why doesn't he just have Hephaistos take it away again?

In this book, Hermes insinuates that the real reason Prometheus is being punished is that his power of prophecy has revealed to him Zeus's downfall. That's not my invention—that is pretty explicitly the reason he is being bound in *Prometheus Bound*. That play ends with Prometheus refusing to tell Hermes what he knows (or claims to know) and Zeus sending Prometheus to Tartarus with a lightning bolt, to be continued in part two of the Promethean trilogy, *Prometheus Unbound*.

Only problem is, *Prometheus Unbound* has essentially been lost to us. Just a few lines remain. Even less remains of what we think was the third part, *Prometheus the Fire-Bringer*. We're left never really knowing what Prometheus knows, or doesn't know, about the downfall of Zeus. Many people think that eventually, it was revealed that the downfall Prometheus sees is Zeus having a child with Thetis, a child destined to be greater than his father—a fate we saw averted in OLYMPIANS Book 6, *Aphrodite: Goddess of Love*. But without the missing parts of the story, well, we'll never know for sure what is revealed to Prometheus.

Don't worry about Prometheus, though. One thing he does know is what's coming for him. Much like Zeus's rule, this punishment isn't going to be eternal. After thirteen generations of torment, he'll be freed by Heracles. Piece of cake.

HELIOS

HE WHO RISES ABOVE

TITAN OF He is literally the Sun.

HEAVENLY BODY Just a little star we like to call the SUN

ROMAN NAME Sol

MODERN LEGACIES The element helium is named after this Titan because it was first detected in our atmosphere during a solar eclipse, in 1868.

SYMBOLS The Sun, his Chariot

SACRED ANIMALS Horse, Rooster (the animal that announces his arrival every day)

Speaking of solar, the word "solar," as in solar system, is derived from the Roman name for this Titan.

SACRED PLANT The Heliotrope (a flower that turns its face to follow the Sun across the sky)

SACRED PLACE The island of Rhodes (site of the Colossus of Rhodes, an, uh, colossal statue of Helios and one of the seven wonders of the ancient world)



PROMETHEUS

THE FIRE-BRINGER



TITAN OF Forethought, Prophecy

SYMBOLS A Fennel-Stalk Torch, Fire

SACRED PLACES Athens (site of an altar to him), Argos (home of a tomb said to be his)

HEAVENLY BODIES A moon of the planet Saturn bears this Titan's name. Additionally, Prometheus lends his name to the asteroid 1809 Prometheus.

MODERN LEGACIES The full title of Mary Shelley's famous horror novel is *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus*, after this Titan.

The image of Prometheus chained to a rock or carrying fire back down to humanity remains very well known. One prominent example of the latter is the famous statue by Paul Manship in New York City's Rockefeller Center.



ABOUT THIS BOOK

HEPHAISTOS: GOD OF FIRE is the eleventh book in *OLYMPIANS*, a graphic novel series from First Second that retells the Greek myths.

FOR DISCUSSION

- 1** Who is more wrong to throw Hephaistos off Olympus, Zeus or Hera? Who deserves more to be stuck to that chair?
- 2** This book is all about punishments. Prometheus is bound, Ares and Aphrodite chained, Hera stuck to her throne. Are these appropriate punishments? Who else might deserve to be punished?
- 3** Why do you think hope is left in Pandora's jar?
- 4** Which of Hephaistos's inventions do you think is the best? What other things might Hephaistos have invented?
- 5** Do you think Zeus is tricked at Mekone, or does he just pretend to be?
- 6** Why do you think Zeus has Prometheus shackled? What do you think Prometheus knows?
- 7** The Olympians are, at heart, shape-shifters. We know Hephaistos can take other forms—so why do you suppose he appears as an ugly man? For that matter, why doesn't he heal his impaired legs?
- 8** Very few people believe in the Greek gods today. Why do you think it's important that we still learn about them?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PROMETHEUS BOUND.

AESCHYLUS, NEW YORK: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1990.

There are many editions of this play out there, but I used the one translated by James Scully and C. John Herington. What I like about this version is that it also contains the surviving fragments of the rest of the Prometheus trilogy.

THE ILIAD OF HOMER.

TRANSLATED BY RICHMOND LATTIMORE. CHICAGO: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, 1951.

The account of Hephaistos's childhood on Lemnos came from here, as well as his being thrown off Olympus by Zeus. Additionally, the sequence of Hephaistos serving drinks on Olympus was largely repurposed from a scene in *The Iliad*. Much like *Prometheus Bound*, there are many translations of *The Iliad* available, but I used this particular version as it's widely held that Lattimore does the best job of preserving the flavor of the ancient Greek.

THE ODYSSEY OF HOMER.

TRANSLATED BY RICHMOND LATTIMORE. NEW YORK: HARPER PERENNIAL, 1991.

Wow, a lot of Homer in this book! Way to go, Homer! He normally ends up taking a back seat to Hesiod, but I really prefer the Homeric Hephaistos. Pretty much the entire sequence of the invisible chaining of Aphrodite and Ares came from here.

HESIOD: VOLUME 1, THEOGONY.

WORKS AND DAYS: TESTIMONIA. HESIOD, NEW YORK: LOEB CLASSICAL LIBRARY, 2007.

I don't particularly like a lot of what Hesiod writes about Hephaistos (a big feh! from me on his being born from Hera alone), but I did pull a fair amount from his account of the creation of Pandora.

AESOP'S FABLES.

TRANSLATED BY LAURA GIBBS. NEW YORK: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2002.

I read quite a bit of fables back when I was writing *Hermes: Tales of the Trickster*, and discovered that a few of them mention Pandora's jar—and, specifically, debate about the nature of that entombed hope—so I figured I'd give it a nod here.

THEOI GREEK MYTHOLOGY WEB SITE WWW.THEOI.COM

Without a doubt, the single most valuable resource I came across in this entire venture. At Theoi.com, you can find an encyclopedia of various gods and goddesses from Greek mythology, cross-referenced with every mention of them they could find in literally hundreds of ancient Greek and Roman texts. Unfortunately, it's not quite complete, and it doesn't seem to be updated anymore.

WWW.LIBRARY.THEOI.COM

A subsection of the above site, it's an online archive of hundreds of ancient Greek and Roman texts. Many of these have never been published in the traditional sense, and many are just fragments recovered from ancient papyrus, or recovered text from other authors' quotations of lost epics. Invaluable.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

FOR YOUNGER READERS

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths. Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire. New York: Doubleday, 1962.

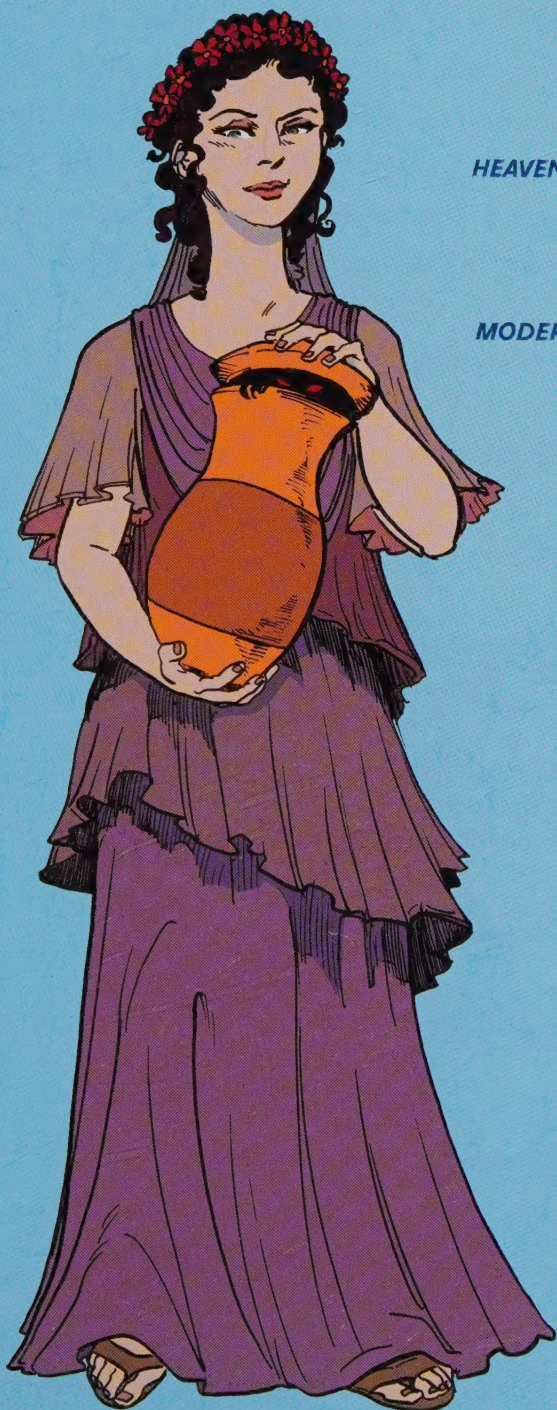
FOR OLDER READERS

The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony. Robert Calasso. New York: Knopf, 1993.

Mythology. Edith Hamilton. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 1999.

PANDORA

THE ONE WITH ALL THE GIFTS



SYMBOL A Pithos (jar)

HEAVENLY BODIES Two—an asteroid, 55 Pandora, and a moon of the planet Saturn. Pandora is also the name of the fictional moon that serves as the setting for James Cameron's *Avatar*.

MODERN LEGACY The popular music streaming service Pandora takes its name from this figure.

The term "Pandora's box" has come to mean any action or situation that results in a great deal of unexpected trouble. An example of this idiom in use may be "Boy, I sure opened a Pandora's box when I decided to write all this back matter when I started this series."

For Nicole

—G. O.



First Second

New York

Copyright © 2019 by George O'Connor

Published by First Second

First Second is an imprint of Roaring Brook Press,
a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010

Don't miss your next favorite book from First Second! Sign up for our enewsletter to get updates at firstsecondnewsletter.com.

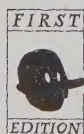
All rights reserved

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018938079

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-62672-528-7

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-62672-527-0

Our books may be purchased in bulk for promotional, educational, or business use. Please contact your local bookseller or the Macmillan Corporate and Premium Sales Department at (800) 221-7945 ext. 5442 or by e-mail at MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com.



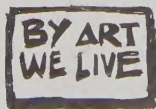
First edition, 2019

Book design by Rob Steen

Printed in China by Toppan Leefung Printing Ltd., Dongguan City, Guangdong Province

Paperback: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

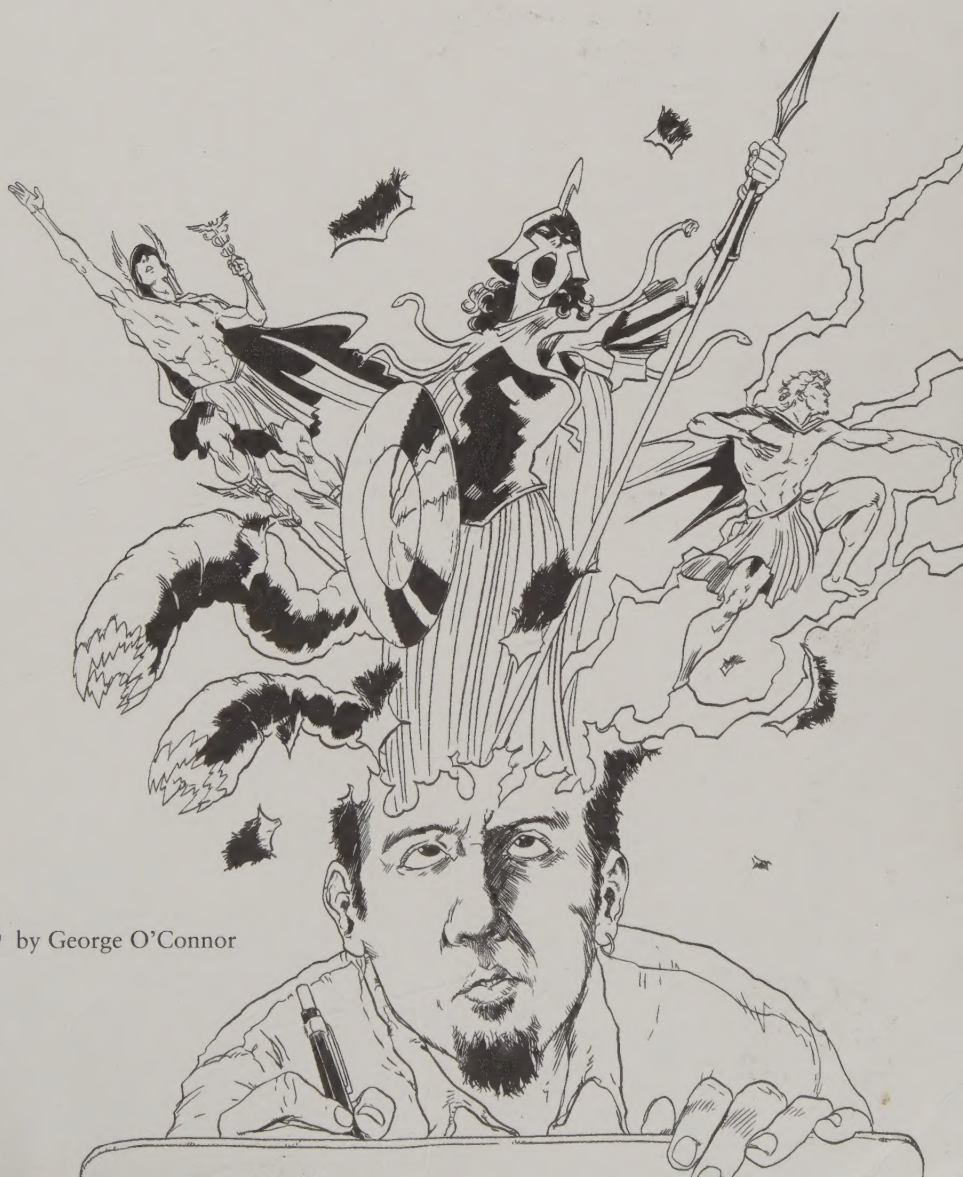
Hardcover: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



JAN 30 2019

GEORGE O'CONNOR is the *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Olympians*, the ongoing series of graphic novels featuring the tragic, dramatic, and epic lives of the Greek gods.

His first graphic novel, *Journey into Mohawk Country*, pushed the boundaries of the genre as it used as its sole text the actual historical journal of the seventeenth-century Dutch trader Harmen Meyndertsz van den Bogaert. He also illustrated acclaimed playwright Adam Rapp's *Ball Peen Hammer*. George is also the creator of popular picture books such as the *New York Times*–bestselling *Kapow!* and *If I Had a Triceratops*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. You can visit him at georgeoconnorbooks.com.



:01

First Second

New York

Cover art copyright © 2019 by George O'Connor

www.firstsecondbooks.com
www.olympiansrule.com

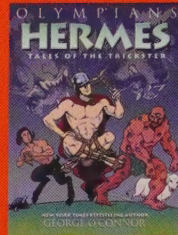
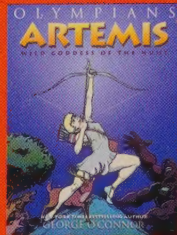
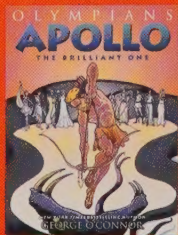
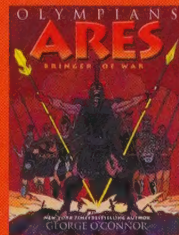
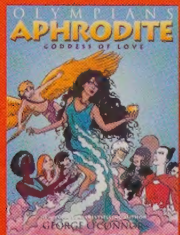
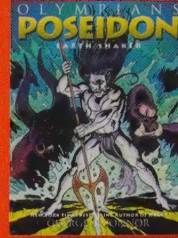
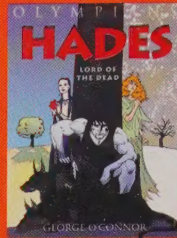
PAL

www.dclibrary.org

DCL LIBRARY



3 1172 094279619



THROWN FROM MOUNT OLYMPUS AS A NEWBORN and caught by Thetis and Eurynome, who raised him on the island of Lemnos, Hephaistos had an aptitude for creating beautiful objects from a very young age. Despite his rejection from Olympus, he swallowed his anger and spent his days perfecting his craft. His exquisitely forged gifts and weapons earned him back his seat in the heavens, but he was not treated as an equal. His brothers and sisters looked down on him for his lame leg, and even his own wife, Aphrodite, was disloyal. Witness Hephaistos's wrath as he creates a plan that'll win him the respect he deserves.

GOD OF FIRE

OLYMPIANS

Get ready for adventures you've only dreamed of as the Greek gods come to explosive life in OLYMPIANS. Epic battles, daring quests, and terrible monsters await you . . .

WWW.OLYMPIANSRULE.COM

US \$10.99 / CAN \$14.50

ISBN 0-18-162-725-28-7

51099 >



9 781626 725287



P7-CVE-386

